

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION RECORD

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LIAISON

**Volume 62
Number 12
December 1960**

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A Librarian's Calendar

January 4th.—Research in librarianship (N.W. Polytechnic course), Aslib, 2.30 p.m. C. W. Hanson and D. J. Foskett on "The need for research in librarianship and information work".

January 6th.—Reference, Special and Information Section (S.E. Group), University of London Institute of Education, Sherry Party, 6.30 p.m. Tickets, 6s. each from Mrs. Stokes at the Institute (please enclose s.a.e.).

January 12th-March 5th.—Book of Kells Exhibition, Burlington House, W.1.

January 18th.—Youth Libraries Section (N.W. Branch) A.G.M. at Chester.

January 18th.—Reference, Special and Information Section (S.E. Group) and Circle of State Librarians, visit to Royal Institution, 21 Albemarle Street, W.1, 6.15 p.m. (Those wishing to attend are requested to notify Miss A. Thompson, Royal College of Nursing, 1a Henrietta Place, W.1, by 11th January.)

January 25th.—Research in librarianship course, Chaucer House, 2.30 p.m. A. G. Mackenzie and I. Gibb on "Research into library co-operation".

January 25th-27th.—L.A. Committees and Council meeting.

February 1st.—Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medals: closing date for suggestions (see p. 398).

February 2nd.—Northern Branch, Newcastle upon Tyne Lit. and Phil. Lecture Hall, 3.15 p.m. M. C. Pottinger on "Impressions of Russian libraries". 6.15 p.m. A.G.M.'s of N. Branch & A.A.L. (N.E. Division).

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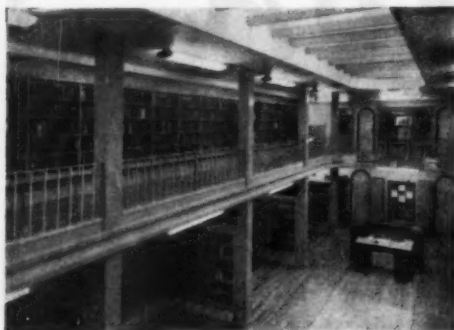
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THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION RECORD

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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<p>The rapid increase in the rate of scientific research has not been accompanied by a similar increase on the side of the humanities and the reasons for this are examined. However, the conditions which resulted in the development of scientific documentation and information services are now beginning to exist in the humanities. The present library provision in the humanities is not satisfactory and a full-scale survey of the documentation scene is required. The library profession has failed to play its proper part in the documentation of the humanities but it is not too late for plans to be made.</p>		<p>CORRESPONDENCE: Revision of Syllabus; Mr. Phillips; Duties of children's librarians; British librarianship overseas; Librarians and their committees; Public relations; Hospital library services; A State inspectorate; Simplified cataloguing rules; The Annual Lecture, 1960 ..</p>	
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Chaucer House, Malet Place, London, W.C.1

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J. D. REYNOLDS, F.L.A.

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Library Association of Australia

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Our New President

THAT eminent man of affairs who exists in the person of Sir Charles Snow is something of an enigma to many of those numerous readers who wait impatiently for instalments in the adventures of Lewis Eliot, written by that equally eminent man of letters, C. P. Snow. A literary President is sure of a special welcome from the membership at large, and it must be said that, large as Sir Charles looms in the world of scientific affairs, it will be as the greatly admired novelist that he will be regarded by many when he comes amongst us, though the scientist will not be forgotten. In this age of specialization, it is something of a wonder that there should exist a person who is at the same time representative on a very high level of both science and literature. It is a matter of deep satisfaction that such a person should have been offered, and have accepted, our Presidency at this particular time, for his presence may be regarded as symbolizing the present happy trend in our affairs. Though we are not leaving the humanities behind, we are taking in, to an ever-growing degree, the sciences as well. Sir Charles Snow—scientist and man of letters, President of an association of libraries, scientific, technical, academic and public—all things begin to fall into place—all our interests are represented in him.

Our new President will, it is certain, be much more than a symbol. Amongst other things he will, it is hoped, shine forth as an example of the way in which 20th-century man can, if he wishes, participate in the whole life of his time. Professor Bronowski sought to make us aware of our obligations when in his Presidential address he said, "... life does not express itself only in value—judgements and in works of art. It expresses itself in all the creations of the human

mind. And these creations are not all set out in the same language. To appreciate them we must learn at least the rudiments of the language of each... men who would regard themselves as Philistines if they did not see the meaning in Schönberg and in Picasso are content to remain tone deaf and colour blind to... intellectual masterpieces created by the great modern scientists."

So it is, and equally, that many modern scientists remain deaf to Schönberg and Picasso. Much has still to be learnt.

It is not too much to hope that under the leadership of Sir Charles Snow during 1961, librarians will be found to have learned a little more about each other's interests,

will come to be, as a result, a little more tolerant, and in the end, find themselves working together closer for the common cause.

The factual account of our President elect's life and achievements, with which it is usual to preface the December editorial, it will have been noticed, has not been attempted. The British Council's *Writers and their work* pamphlet on C. P. Snow, is by his fellow novelist and laboratory colleague, William Cooper. It is hoped that members will read this, but for the convenience of those who don't, the following chronology is reprinted, with acknowledgements, from page 6:

- Born 15th October, 1905, Leicester: son of William Edward Snow, F.R.C.O., and Ada Sophia.
- 1925 Entered University College, Leicester.
- 1927 Graduated B.Sc. First Class Honours.
- 1928 M.Sc. Entered Christ's College, Cambridge as a Research Student.
- 1930 Senior Studentship of the 1851 Exhibition: elected a Fellow of Christ's College.
- 1932 *Death under sail.*
- 1933 *New lives for old.*
- 1934 *The search.*

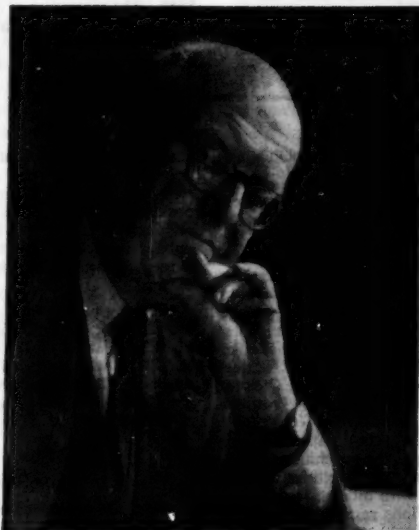


Photo: Mark Gerson

Sir Charles Snow

- 1935 Appointed Tutor of Christ's College.
 1939 Appointed to Royal Society Sub-Committee on use of scientific personnel.
 1940 Joined Ministry of Labour. *Strangers and brothers*.
 1942 Director of Technical Personnel, Ministry of Labour.
 1943 C.B.E.
 1944 Director of Scientific Personnel, English Electric Company.
 1945 Civil Service Commissioner.
 1947 Director of English Electric Company. *The light and the dark*.
 1949 *Time of hope*.
 1950 Married Pamela Hansford Johnson. *View over the park*, a play produced at Lyric Theatre, Hammer-smith.
 1951 *The masters*.
 1952 Son, Philip Charles Hansford, born.
 1954 *The new men*.
 1956 *Homecomings*.
 1957 *Knighted*.
 1958 *The conscience of the rich*.
 1959 *Rede Lecturer, Cambridge*.
 1960 *The affair*.

Conference on the International Exchange of Publications in Europe, Budapest, 1960

This conference was held from 9th to 19th September, under the auspices of the Hungarian National Commission for Unesco, with the assistance of Unesco. Its purpose was to bring into closer contact the officials responsible for international exchange of publications between Eastern and Western European countries and to consider how this form of cultural intercourse can be improved. Delegates from twenty European countries, together with the Head of the Libraries Division of Unesco and observers from F.I.D. and I.F.L.A., met under the chairmanship of Mrs. Magda Jöboru, Director General of the National Széchenyi Library and President of the Hungarian National Commission for Unesco.

The Conference discussed working papers dealing with the materials of exchange, the machinery of exchange, present trends and future possibilities and the particular problems connected with official, learned and duplicate and surplus publications respectively. Among its conclusions were the following:

PURPOSE OF EXCHANGE is, as a supplement or alternative to purchase, to enable institutions to obtain the widest possible bibliographical coverage. Exchange is often the only or the easiest means of doing this. The materials received through exchange should be in the keeping of qualified persons and should be available to the public so that its cultural impact might be felt.

MATERIALS OF EXCHANGE, although mainly consisting of official and learned publications, should not exclude commercial publications of the same character.

TOOLS OF EXCHANGE include comprehensive and selective national bibliographies of official and non-official books, serials and periodicals, lists of learned societies and their publications and governmental administrative yearbooks; these should be published regularly and kept up-to-date and, where appropriate, give some indication of those items available for exchange. The Unesco Handbook on the international exchange of publications (of which a 3rd edition is in preparation), is useful and should be capable of being kept up-to-date by supplements.

ORGANIZATION OF EXCHANGES is best carried on by individual institutions but exchange centres can play an important and useful part in arranging contacts, in offering facilities such as easy transmission and in general co-ordination, which must never become control. Centres can be particularly helpful in the redistribution of surplus and duplicate publications.

IMPROVEMENTS in the present situation would follow from general acceptance and ratification by Member states of the 1958 Unesco Conventions (on the inter-

national exchange of official and non-official publications); the adoption of a standard form for statistical reports; national and international action to cheapen postal and air-mail rates for exchange material; further regional meetings on the international exchange of publications; exchange visits by staff engaged in this work; historical and bibliographical studies on the subject.

Working papers from the United Kingdom were prepared by Mr. William Cox, former Deputy Controller of H.M.S.O., and by Mr. A. Allardye, Superintendent of B.N.B.C., who attended as the U.K. delegate and also acted as Chief Rapporteur. The Summary Report of the Conference will appear in the Jan./Feb. issue of the *Unesco bulletin for libraries*.

A. ALLARDYE

North-Western Polytechnic Department of Librarianship

In view of the increasing number of applications for places in the full-time Registration Courses, it may not be possible to consider any applications for the September, 1961 course received after the 31st March, 1961. Applicants for the January, 1962 course are advised to apply before the 31st July, 1961.

Applicants seeking a grant from local authorities which make it a condition of an award that students shall have passed one group of the Registration Examination should note that where the appropriate group is being taken in June, they should apply for the January course, and where the group is being taken in December, they should apply for the following September course.

Union list of serials

The Joint Committee on the Union list of serials wishes to remind librarians that the 1960 ten-year cumulation of *New serial titles* will be an important union list, one which will provide coverage of the serials which began publication in the years from 1950 through 1960. It will also be a supplement in advance to the forthcoming third edition of the *Union list of serials*. The ten-year cumulation will supersede all earlier annual volumes of *New serial titles*. Librarians should therefore take steps to acquire the ten-year cumulation if they wish to ensure the completeness of their union list coverage of serial publications.

The 1960 ten-year cumulation will be issued in 1961 and is available with a subscription to the 1960 issues of *New serial titles*. Librarians that have not ordered their copies should get in touch with the Card Division, Library of Congress, Washington 25, D.C.

Documentation in the Humanities*

By D. J. FOSKETT, M.A., F.L.A., *Librarian, Institute of Education, University of London*

ONE of the most striking features of our civilization today is the vast difference between the state of research in the humanities and in the sciences. I am using the term "humanities" not in the narrow meaning of classical, especially Greek and Roman, studies, but in the broader sense permitted by the New English Dictionary, of "Language or literature concerned with human culture"; and I take this to include what are nowadays called the social sciences. But even if we include, under the general name "humanities", these wider fields there is an immense and quite unjustifiable gulf between the humanities and the sciences when we come to the prosecution of research. The humanist, in the shape of priest, poet and philosopher, has been top dog since the beginning of history; now, for the first time, he finds that the scientist, the doer and not the thinker, is supplanting him in positions of power and esteem. It has taken a long time to free ourselves from the domination of Plato and his successors, but it appears that the pendulum has at last swung back. The danger is now that it may swing too far, and part of the responsibility of librarians must be to guard against this.

The phenomenon is of recent origin, and may therefore be relatively easy to combat. On the other hand, certain overwhelmingly powerful social forces have operated in its favour, and unless we understand what they are, we cannot begin to formulate appropriate counter-measures. I do not wish to join the prophets of woe, who would declare a moratorium on scientific research, nor to suggest that the present favoured status of the scientist must be attributed to a false scale of values. Far from it; I am a convinced believer in material progress, and after ten years in industrial research, I know well enough the importance of the contribution that science can make. I should like to see much more scientific research; with half the world's population living below a bare subsistence level, how can a humanist maintain any other position? But here, indeed, is the crucial point. More scientific research is carried out every year in the United States alone than in the whole history of science up to 1939; yet half the world is under-nourished.

Surely we are entitled to ask, what happens to all this research? And, as you know, the scientists frequently come in for blame because their work does not seem to bring us the rewards that we think we are entitled to expect. The plain fact is that a very great deal of scientific research literally goes up in smoke—the latest cloud in the middle of the Sahara, much to the disgust of the nations round about. But it would be neither correct nor profitable to blame the scientists for this state of affairs; it is not they who decide to devote so much effort to the preparation of destruction. When scientists like Oppenheimer or Linus Pauling or Bernal speak out against this folly, it is not their fellow scientists who criticize them; when the Russians succeeded in launching the Sputnik, it was not the Western scientists who raised the lamentations. Scientists, with only rare exceptions, want to see their work put to useful purposes, and they rejoice in the successes of their colleagues, regardless of politics.

The reason why we have come to this critical pass is that the rapid increase in the rate of scientific research has not been accompanied by a similar increase on the side of the humanities. We still know pathetically little about ourselves as people. This is a serious matter which could easily turn out to be disastrous, because the effect of scientific progress largely depends on what is made of it by non-scientists.† Consider the example of television, which has actually been studied by social scientists. Television, a great triumph of applied science, offers us unprecedented opportunities for good; yet the conclusions of the Himmelweit team are depressing, and those of Dr. Fredric Wertham in the U.S.A. are frightening. Children and adolescents, he says, are rapidly being conditioned to accept violence and death as a normal means of settling arguments; and when they become adults, they will have at their disposal the most appalling weapons of

† The editorial in *Nature* for 27th February, "United Nations collaboration in the sociological sciences", discusses a U.N. University scheme, which "would possibly include a World Institute of Social Technology, for advanced research and teaching in the practical application of psychological and social science to problems of human relations and social organization . . ."

* A lecture given at the Leeds School of Librarianship on 26th February, 1960, to a joint meeting of the Leeds, Manchester and Newcastle Schools.

mass destruction ever known. Well may the *Saturday Evening Post* utter its plaintive cry, "Why less delinquency in Europe?"

And perhaps the most distressing feature of all is that, basically, research in the humanities is consciously directed towards the improvement of man and of human relations. It is more altruistic than a good deal of scientific research, which is directed towards making money. Unfortunately, this means that there is nothing like the same emphasis on results, nor on the necessity for bringing into play all possible resources for the speedy solution of important problems. Now this is no less than a fundamental criticism of the scholars themselves, because they have clearly failed to demonstrate the value of their own work. At present, research in social science rarely makes the impact that its importance deserves, while research in the other humanities earns even less fame.

Why is this? I suggest that two highly important factors are the nature of the research and its communication to others. Librarians are most vitally concerned with communication, but we must first look at the research itself, because this is actually the key to the situation. Some time during the last half of the nineteenth century, when scientific research began to be applied systematically to industrial processes, it ceased to be exclusively the concern of single individuals working in their own laboratories, and the team work that followed, with its division of labour into specialists and specialist groups, helped to produce the enormous effective increase in the quantity of research that has characterized the twentieth century. In the humanities, on the other hand, we are only at the beginning of this process, and in some fields it has met with fierce resistance. Some professors of science continue to maintain that, in order to preserve an individual's integrity, it is necessary that his research should have no perceivable application; but however much the world of science may applaud such disinterested devotion to the pursuit of truth, it does not in practice emulate it. The argument carries much more weight in the humanities. It would be unkind to say that it is easy to be disinterested when your work is actually of no interest to anyone; we must recognize the logical force of the argument that, if the humanities aim to set a standard of human excellence, then the humanist scholar's first duty is to reach the highest level of which he is capable. He himself is the fruit of his research, a model to be imitated by his pupils and disciples.

I have no desire to quarrel with this point of

view, because I believe that it has been overtaken by the march of history. What was achieved in science by the driving force of industry is beginning to be brought about in the humanities by the opening up of new countries and the steady growth of university and other forms of higher education. This results in more research and more publication, and we are reaching the point in many fields where it has become impossible to read everything new in one's field and do research as well. A division of labour follows, and the process inevitably accelerates. In discussing his monumental *Studies in Ancient Greek society*, Professor George Thomson of Birmingham has said how much more quickly and efficiently he could have done his work if he had been leading a team instead of working on his own. Even while I was developing this line of argument, I received a copy of the 29th Hobhouse Memorial Trust Lecture, just published by the London School of Economics. The lecturer is T. H. Marshall, of Unesco, and his theme "International comprehension in and through social science". In it, he has stated my point exactly. After commenting on the development of active scientific sociology in countries of Asia and the Middle East, he says, "The so-called 'traditional' societies have broken through the crust of their traditional attitudes towards the means by which human society should be studied and by which a deeper understanding of it should be sought, and have begun to apply the methods of modern science to the study of mankind". Thus it may be said that the three major conditions which brought about the development of scientific documentation and information services are now beginning to exist in at least some fields in the humanities. The growth of research itself leads to an ever-increasing quantity of publication; the tendency of scholars to work together in teams leads to a division of labour and a further acceleration in the rate of discovery and publication; while the third, perhaps the most important, condition, the urge to produce results that may be put to use, has quite suddenly been forced upon us by the great strides taken lately in the manufacture of weapons of universal destruction. This point is also well brought out by T. H. Marshall, quoting a Soviet sociologist at a Unesco conference of social scientists held recently in Moscow. The task, he said, is to make people understand their society and its place in history and in the contemporary world; "compared with this, the refinement of hypotheses about the ranking of occupations, or sociological research into the factors which cause miners to

keep pigeons (one of the examples cited during the debate) seemed to him to be of little importance". The first is obviously a large-scale task of communication; the second are typical of the individualist by-paths so often found in our universities.

There is, of course, another essential prerequisite for developing a documentation service: a good library on which to base it. In science, the characteristic mode of progress has been for each organization to provide its own specialist library and information service so that the two have grown up together. Large scientific libraries exist, of course, and some of the large general libraries have strong collections in science, but the most advanced information services are based on small special libraries serving particular organizations. Library provision in the humanities may well follow a different pattern because of the nature of the material. In fact, the present level of library provision is quite good, in spite of the absence of many special libraries. For one thing, humanist interests are more widely spread, and therefore the public libraries have been more conscious of their duty towards them than they have towards science. Research in the humanities has always been a feature of universities, some of whose libraries have magnificent collections in these fields. We can say that the books have been collected and preserved reasonably well.

Another important point is the continuing value of seminal books in the humanities, which are often reprinted and which do not become modified or superseded by later discoveries in the same way as even the greatest works of science. Aristotle's *Ethics*, *Poetics* and *Politics* still can be and are studied with profit; his scientific works, which were considered infallible for nearly 2,000 years, have now only historical interest, and would certainly not be used as textbooks or for consulting at the bench.

Nonetheless, we cannot feel satisfied with our present library provision in the humanities, when we consider the growth in the output of research materials. Two of the most important categories, periodicals and foreign works, can be found in only a handful of public libraries, and even there only in small quantities. The libraries of great societies are a rich source for scientific works, but are nothing like so important in the humanities. Certainly some very fine libraries exist, but their use is usually restricted to members much more, and their contribution to the national resources is bound to be limited. Few government departments owe any allegiance to the humanities, and this is duly reflected in government library

provision. That such an attitude is by no means confined to government departments can be seen only too clearly by the fate of the London Library, a truly magnificent collection without parallel among the lending libraries in this country. After a hundred years of outstanding service to scholars, writers, poets and ordinary people, it has been dealt a crippling blow by a purblind pack of city councillors, who are doubtless proud of having increased their already princely revenue by a few paltry thousand pounds. The protests of some of our most eminent men failed to prevent this shameful act, and the London Library will have the greatest difficulty in maintaining its collection at its former level.

The same is true of the British Museum Library, once, but no longer, the greatest library in the world. Since the departure of the Natural History library to South Kensington, the Museum has been overwhelmingly a library of the humanities, and we should be entitled to expect Panizzi's standard to be maintained, and that we should have the best collection in the world of the literature of any country outside of its own frontiers. But the grant to the Museum for book purchase long since ceased to measure up to this standard, and our loss can be seen by comparing the holdings of leading foreign authors in editions previous to, and subsequent to, the First World War. The former aim of near-completeness has given way to a high degree of selectivity. For any complete study of a foreign author, therefore, British scholars are obliged to spend extra time in visiting libraries on their travels abroad—not for the essential study of original and unique works, which must be done, but to see modern specialist editions which ought to be available here.

Probably our best collections in the humanities, outside the deposit libraries, may be found in the university libraries, though even here it is doubtful whether their expansion has actually kept pace with the rate of publication. But there has been a notable development in recent years, with fine new libraries being built or planned, and new university foundations on the horizon. The overall picture is not altogether unsatisfactory without giving grounds for complacency, and SCONUL continues to perform a useful function in co-ordination and co-operation. An example of recent expansion is in the field of education. Before the McNair Report of 1944, there was only one University Institute of Education, with its specialist library, in London. Now there are 17, each with a library, some with

very good collections, and staffed by qualified librarians.

But it has to be borne in mind that the first duty of any university library is to its own staff and students; they can therefore assume a national responsibility only to a limited extent, within their proper framework. This may not act as too severe a check to research so long as most of it continues to be done at the universities. But there must already be many non-university scholars who could make a positive contribution to progress if they had access to a first-class collection, and as part of my thesis is that we stand in great need of more humanistic research, we should, as a profession, do everything in our power to see that the national library service in the humanities does not fall behind the level implied by the title of one of our Presidential Addresses, "For every man, his book".

I think we can take pride in the fact that, even though we have not maintained the standards we set ourselves in the past, our national library service remains one of the best in the world. In order to keep it so, however, it is imperative that we should understand the newly-emerging trends in research, and take care that library development is not confined to a pattern which has no doubt been highly successful, but which no longer measures up to the needs of the research worker. I mean that we have to re-examine our professional responsibilities, and in particular the appropriate means for the dissemination of information in the humanities, as in the sciences.

First of all, let us clear away some doubts. We must not expect to be able to imitate exactly what has been done in science without thought for the different nature of scientific research. Most scientific research is done in the laboratory, manipulating and examining natural phenomena in order to compose theories about the nature of the physical world. In the humanities, on the other hand, most research is still done in libraries; library materials are primary sources, and the humanist is quite happily and profitably employed in the library, while the scientist would rather be at the bench. Because of this difference, it is sometimes suggested that the humanist scholar would not welcome the same kind of information service that we give to scientists. There is some truth in this, to the extent that science deals less with value judgements and more with purely factual data, which makes it easier for a scientist to delegate part of the responsibility of a literature search.

But I do not, myself, agree with some extrava-

gant claims made by scientific information officers over the extent to which a research worker can be relieved of the task of using the literature. I am sure that it is an exaggeration to say that an information officer can evaluate the literature for a scientist, because I do not believe that anyone can evaluate for a research worker, in any field, except himself. The information officer has a vital role to play in controlling and organizing the literature, which is a somewhat different matter, and I think that this role can be undertaken in the humanities just as well as in the sciences. There is a continuing need for factual information and for information about new research just published; the value judgements can, and in my view must, be left to the research worker himself. We should not be so misguided as to pretend to be more expert than the experts. It is bad enough in science; in the humanities it would completely undermine the scholar's confidence in the kind of information service that we can offer. I have found that in the field of education, research workers are becoming only too conscious of their lack of information about many new developments in which they would be very interested, and even in a university institution they have welcomed with gratitude, not to say amazement, the small beginnings of an information service that I have been able to supply with a very limited staff.

We are all only too well aware of the vast increase in the documentation of science during the last few years. The index to *Chemical abstracts* for 1947-1956 is three times the size, and several times the cost, of the index for the previous decade, 1937-1946; dozens of entirely new abstracting services have been founded. The cost of all this could probably be obtained only by means of one of the gigantic computers which their proud owners are trying to foist upon us for information retrieval. No one, least of all a computer, can say how much duplication and unnecessary labour goes into all these mountains of paper. There has been a series of international conferences, beginning with the Royal Society's Empire Scientific Conference in 1946, which called for the full-scale Scientific Information Conference in 1948. The First International Congress on the Documentation of Applied Chemistry was convened by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry in 1955. The brontosaurus of the series was the International Conference on Scientific Information held at Washington in November 1958—the largest such corporate body yet to appear. And for all the good it did, its corporate brain

might just as well have been the size of a peanut.

These conferences have cost a terrible amount of money, and inspired a terrible amount of what is euphemistically called "research", but their actual practical value and influence has been very small. Somewhat more profitable, but with a strictly limited scope, have been some conferences convened by Unesco, particularly to deal with abstracting. Among other things, these have resulted in greater international agreement on the form of abstracts, and also in the exchange of page proofs between the editors of journals covering allied fields in different countries.

There has been very little activity of this kind in the humanities, but the documentation scene has several encouraging features nevertheless. A good deal of the recent work has been due to Unesco, whose efforts over the whole field of librarianship and documentation have been of the highest value. It is characteristic of research in the humanities that the greatest wealth should be in the field of subject bibliographies—a field, be it noted, that has been only sparsely cultivated in science. The traditional, highly individualistic approach to the literature has led automatically to the acceptance of author-title bibliographies as the correct form of key to the literature of a subject field, with annual or periodical indexes as the means for keeping track of current publication. This is not entirely due to the scholars' reluctance to accept someone else's abstracts; it is also the fact that nearly all of this work is done voluntarily, often in spare time, so that it would be extremely difficult to undertake the additional labour of making abstracts. Typical examples of these indexes and bibliographies are the monumental *Index Islamicus*, compiled by the librarian of the School of Oriental and African Studies; the *Index to British education periodicals*, compiled by the librarians of the Institutes of Education and soon to be published by the Library Association; the *Harvard list of books on art*; the *Cambridge bibliography of English literature*. Many of such works can be found in Walford's *Guide to reference material*. The English Association, with its *Years' work in English studies*, and the Modern Humanities Research Association (not subsidized by D.S.I.R.), with its *Research in progress*, and *Year's work in modern language studies*, are two societies which have made a splendid contribution by organizing voluntary efforts for bibliographical works. The difficulties of producing them are illustrated by the history of the *London bibliography of the social sciences*, which has had to reduce its scope

because of lack of staff, and by the unhappy demise of the *Register of research in the social sciences*. On the international level, the H. W. Wilson Co. has published the *International index* since 1916, and its other indexes include a few non-American periodicals. Perhaps the most substantial contribution has again been that of Unesco, with its series of International Social Science Bibliographies, which started in 1953. Another international project of the greatest interest, started last year, is known as CEDESA, the Centre de Documentation Economique et Sociale Africaine. This has its headquarters in Brussels, and aims to enlist the help of collaborators all over the world. Each collaborator undertakes to index the literature of his own country in specific subjects concerned with Africa, and in return, for a nominal subscription, receives printed cards, covering the world's literature and classified by the UDC. I do not think it will be out of place to mention here a similar venture, with which I have been fortunate enough to be associated myself, in the field of Occupational Safety and Health. In this scheme, which began operating in January of this year, national co-operating bodies prepare abstracts of their country's literature and send them to the International Labour Organization in Geneva. There, they are translated, printed on cards, and issued in English, French and German. It is estimated that, for less than £20 a year, subscribers will receive something like 4,000 printed cards, covering the literature of the entire world.

I believe that interest in abstracting the literature of the humanities is growing, and I also believe that it will be perfectly possible to train people to produce reasonably satisfactory abstracts. Much humanistic research now borders on scientific work—in linguistics, for example, and particularly in the social sciences. *Psychological abstracts* and *Child development abstracts* have been published since 1927, the *Bulletin analytique: philosophie* of the Paris Centre Nationale de la Recherche Scientifique since 1947, the *International political science abstracts* since 1951. Last year, the first-class *International journal of abstracts: statistical theory and method* began. This is in a marginal field, but it is a truly international venture, with co-operating editors in nearly 20 different countries. Scholars in the humanities are therefore becoming accustomed to using abstracts, and as abstracts are clearly superior to indexes for indicating the contents of a document, I feel certain that they will become generally recognized as necessary in face of the growing quantity of publication. Even if it is not

possible to read everything when it first appears, a journal of abstracts gives the essence of the new work, and the full papers can be read later when they become specifically relevant. I, and no doubt many others, have been using *Library science abstracts* in this way since it began.

So far, two main solutions to the problem of compilation and publication have appeared. The first is the international journal covering a strictly limited field, often sponsored by Unesco, perhaps in collaboration with national associations; the second is the journal covering a wider field but confined to the publications of a single country. The second method is becoming popular in education: *Australian education abstracts* and *Indian education abstracts* are already established, and the National Foundation for Educational Research in London plans to publish *Technical education abstracts* from British periodicals, with the collaboration of lecturers and librarians in technical colleges and teacher training colleges.

We have therefore reached a point where it would be most desirable to make a full-scale survey of the documentation scene in the humanities. We want to learn from what has been done in science, but we want to avoid some of the mistakes and duplication, because in the humanities there would be little gain from pointing the pistol at librarians' heads, as does *Chemical abstracts*, for example. An international conference might do a great deal of good just at the present time, but only if it were organized on the right lines. It should study practical problems of the type outlined in the *Journal of documentation* for December 1958, by Miss Barbara Kyle, who has probably given more thought to this whole question than anyone else. It should set out to make recommendations that would bring some material benefits—not by any means an impossible task. Above all, it should rigorously exclude purely commercial interests, and refuse to allow them to batten on the needs of the scholar and the research library, as they have done in science, frustrating attempts to arrive at reasonable solutions by co-operation. The Washington Conference was an outstanding example of this kind of sabotage. The International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies, founded by Unesco, might be the appropriate body to call such a conference.

Immense sums are spent on science; even the British Treasury has been persuaded to yield up one and a half million pounds for the National Lending Library for Science. Of course, we all welcome this development, even if we disagree, as I do, with some of the policy behind this

library. But we should not forget that the National Central Library has been trying to do a much bigger job in covering the whole field of knowledge on a budget that represents less than 5 per cent of that sum.

It is unfortunately true that the library profession, as a profession, has failed to play its proper part in the documentation of the humanities. It is not too late, however. There is a considerable interest growing up among the scholars themselves, and we should be preparing bold and well-thought-out plans to put before them. There is no reason why some of the steps taken to meet the situation in science should not equally well be taken in the humanities. Why not a National Lending Library for the Humanities? A committee of the British Academy has begun to study the provision of research materials, and I have no doubt that Dr. Urquhart* has already sufficient experience to put forward some useful ideas. The National Central Library will have to adjust its policy to take account of the NLLST and of the schemes for Regional self-sufficiency, and this could provide an excellent opportunity for another spectacular development in the nation's library system.

When the Roman armies went into battle, they cast out before them a cloud of skirmishers, whose job was to clear the ground so that the real troops could operate at the maximum efficiency. Like a skirmisher, I have in this paper covered a lot of ground without allowing myself to be enticed into really grappling with any of the problems I have encountered. This does not make them any the less formidable; but I hope and believe that we librarians can meet them and make our own unique contribution towards overcoming them. There has never been a time when good librarianship could be of greater service, for the advancement of learning and the benefit of humanity.

* Dr. Urquhart's paper, read at the same meeting, was published in the *Journal of Documentation*.

LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the London and Home Counties Branch will take place at Chaucer House at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, 22nd February, 1961. It will be followed by an address by Mr. Roy Jenkins, M.P., on "The struggle against literary censorship".

Notices of Motion must be sent to the Hon. Secretary-Treasurer, Penge Public Library, 194 Anerley Road, S.E.20, before 1st January, 1961.

Further details, including the Agenda for the meeting, the Annual Report and Financial Statement will be circulated to all members of the Branch with the January issue of the *RECORD*.

The Library Association

Annual Election, 1961

We, the Scrutineers appointed to supervise the Annual Election of Council for 1961, declare the following to be the result of the Election:

AS PRESIDENT: SIR CHARLES SNOW
 AS VICE-PRESIDENT (to retire in 1963): E. AUSTIN HINTON
 AS HON. SECRETARY: W. B. PATON
 AS HON. TREASURER: F. G. B. HUTCHINGS
 AS HON. LEGAL ADVISER: SIR CHARLES NORTON

	Votes
AS LONDON COUNCILLORS:	
D. J. Foskett	1645
F. M. Gardner	1634
Miss E. J. Willson	1533
NOT ELECTED: H. G. T. Christopher	1280
AS COUNTRY COUNCILLORS:	
M. C. Pottinger	1880
G. Chandler	1704
S. H. Horrocks	1645
W. S. Haugh	1606
J. F. W. Bryon	1583
NOT ELECTED: G. H. Davison	1419

(Signed) A. H. CHAPLIN J. E. WALKER
 S. W. MARTIN A. J. PECK
 J. T. GILLET F. E. SANDRY

Register of Chartered Librarians

(Continued from November issue)

At the October meeting of the Council, 2 Fellows and 11 Associates were reinstated on the Register as follows:

Fellows: Bale, F.; Darvill, M. (Mrs.).

Associates: Bradley, P.; Banks, J. F. T. (Mrs.); Chivers, F. (Miss); Fox, L. A. M. (Mrs.); Harbold, K. M. (Mrs.); Howie, M. R. (Miss); Knight, L. (Miss); Pain, A. W.; Pearce, R. L.; Springall, M. H. (Mrs.); Transom, E. C.

1 Fellow and 6 Associates resigned as follows:
 Fellow: Record, P. D.

Associates: Bamber, N. M. G. (Mrs.); Bisping, A. G. C. (Mrs.); Maddock, S. M. (Mrs.); Watson, S. A. (Mrs.); Millward, A. E.; Wintour, J. E. (Mrs.).

4 Fellows and 5 Associates deceased as follows:

Fellows: Cronshaw, V.; Edwards, H. H.; Hamer, H.; Norman, R.

Associates: Gilliland, A. M. (Miss); Gostling, M. J. (Miss); Hill, D. P.; Moore, S. T. (Miss); Wright, S. H. T.

Memorials to Cyril Barnard

On October 12th, Sir Philip Manson-Bahr, C.M.G., D.S.O., dedicated the annexe to the Library of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine as the Barnard Room in memory of Cyril Barnard, for many years Librarian of the School, in the presence of Mrs. Barnard, other members of his family, members of the School staff and friends and colleagues.

The Committee of the Medical Section of the Library Association has decided that the Cyril Barnard Memorial Prize shall be awarded triennially for an outstanding contribution to medical librarianship. The first award will be made in 1962.

Notes to Students

It is anticipated that the results of the Winter Examinations will be posted to candidates on the dates set out below:

First Professional Examination	14th January
Registration Examination	28th January
Final Examination	11th February

The Pass Lists will be displayed in the entrance hall at Chaucer House at the time of posting results. These Pass Lists will also be published in the March issue of the RECORD.

Advance notice is again given that next year's Examinations will be held on the following dates:

First Professional Examination	14th June and 22nd Nov.
Final, Part 1	20th June and 5th Dec.
Registration A(i)	21st June and 6th Dec.
Registration A(ii) and (iii)	22nd June and 7th Dec.
Final, Part 2	23rd June and 8th Dec.
Registration B(iv) and (v)	26th June and 11th Dec.
Final, Part 3	27th June and 12th Dec.
Registration C and D and Specialist Certificate	28th June and 13th Dec.
Final, Part 4	29th June and 14th Dec.

LIBRARY SCIENCE ABSTRACTS

There is a steady demand for abstracters (from any part of the world) who are willing to volunteer their services for two or three years.

In order that *Library Science Abstracts* shall be as up to date as possible, it is important that prospective abstracters feel confident that they have sufficient time in which to fulfil their assignments promptly.

These assignments may vary from as little as an agreement to abstract one quarterly periodical up to coverage of as many periodicals as the abstractor wishes.

Abstracters should preferably be Chartered Librarians, but offers from other interested persons will be welcomed.

In particular, there is constant need for more abstracters with knowledge of languages, especially German and the less-common languages. Translator-abstracters are asked to prepare longer abstracts of 200-300 words for which they will receive an annual honorarium.

Further details and a guide to the preparation of abstracts will be sent upon application to the Editor, H. A. Whatley, 2 Hawthorn Avenue, Bearsden, by Glasgow, Scotland.

Essay Prize 1961

In Subject 2 as set out on page 380 of the October issue, "the National Library for Science and Technology" should have read "the National Lending Library for Science and Technology".

Children's Book Awards

L.A. Carnegie Medal Award, 1960

The Library Association Carnegie Medal for 1960 will be awarded for an outstanding book for children by a British subject domiciled in the United Kingdom (Great Britain and Northern Ireland), published in Great Britain during the year, which is worthy of the award.

Recommendations for the award are invited from members of the L.A., who are asked to submit a preliminary list of not more than three titles, from which the Committee will make a final selection. The award is open to works of non-fiction as well as fiction and the choice should be based upon the following points.

Fiction. (i) Plot; (ii) Style; (iii) Characterization; (iv) Format (including production and illustrations, if any).

Non-Fiction. (i) Accuracy; (ii) Method of presentation; (iii) Style; (iv) Format, etc.

The lists should reach the Secretary of the Library Association, Chaucer House, Malet Place, London, W.C.1, not later than *1st February, 1961*, giving author, title and publisher, and including only books within the terms of the award and published during the year 1960.

L.A. Kate Greenaway Medal, 1960

The Library Association Kate Greenaway Medal is intended to recognize the importance of illustrations in children's books. (An article on the award appeared in the *RECORD* for December, 1955.) It will be awarded to the artist who, in the opinion of the Library Association, has produced the most distinguished work in the illustration of children's books during the preceding year.

The artist must be a British subject domiciled in the United Kingdom and the work published in Great Britain.

Books intended for older as well as younger children are included, and reproduction will be taken into account.

Recommendations for the award are invited from members of the L.A., who are asked to submit a preliminary list of not more than three titles.

The lists should reach the Secretary of the L.A. not later than *1st February, 1961*, giving name of the artist, and including only books within the terms of the award and published during the year 1960.

Section Elections, 1961

YOUTH LIBRARIES SECTION

ANNUAL ELECTION, 1961

We, the scrutineers appointed to supervise the annual election of the Youth Libraries Section of the Library Association, for 1961, declare the following to be elected:

Chairman: Miss J. W. Butler

Honorary Secretary: Mr. M. S. Cróuch

Honorary Treasurer: Miss D. D. Chilcot

Honorary Membership Secretary: Miss N. A. Dale

Ex-officio member, retiring chairman: Mr. H. R. Mainwood

Committee members:	Votes
Miss E. H. Colwell	269
Mr. D. B. Lomas	209
Mr. W. H. Milner	197
Miss F. P. Parrott	194
Miss E. N. Bewick	181

Not elected:

Miss S. M. Rowson	170
Miss F. Page	169
Mr. M. Tarry	134
Miss J. I. Webb	129

Voting papers sent out	1,272
Papers returned valid	353
Papers returned invalid	
(1) Insufficient postage	1
(2) Received late	4
(3) Not signed	1
(4) Signature illegible	9

Total invalid	15
Total of papers returned	368

Scrutineers: A. G. CURWEN
J. I. MARSH
J. CURWEN

MEDICAL SECTION

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 1961

Chairman: L. T. Morton; *Hon. Secretary:* E. H. Cornelius; *Hon. Asst. Secretary:* B. Armitage; *Other members of Committee:* Miss M. D. Bell, W. A. Lee, L. M. Payne, G. R. Pendrill, Miss J. B. Webster.

REFERENCE, SPECIAL AND INFORMATION SECTION

ANNUAL ELECTION, 1961

The results of the Annual Election of Officers and Committee for 1961 are as follows:

Chairman: Dr. A. J. Walford; *Vice-Chairman:* K. A. Mallaber; *Hon. Secretary:* R. C. Wright; *Asst. Hon. Secretary:* T. I. Bell; *Hon. Treasurer:* J. L. Howgego; *Hon. Publications and Membership Officer:* Miss S. B. Stewart; *Hon. Programme Officer:* R. J. Roberts; *Nationally Elected Members:* P. Colehan, H. H. Goom, E. Hargreaves, W. Pearson, J. Roland Smith, G. P. Sweeney, F. R. Taylor.

Fulbright Travel Grants, 1961-1962

The United States Educational Commission in the United Kingdom announces that, under the provisions of the Fulbright programme, travel grants are available to citizens of the United Kingdom and dependent territories to go to the United States of America for academic or educational purposes, such as study, research or lecturing. All awards are competitive and are made by the Board of Foreign Scholarships in Washington upon the recommendations of the Commission.

The basic criteria for the award of a travel grant are as follows:

- (1) GRADUATE STUDENTS. Applicants must hold by the time of departure, at least a good second class degree or its equivalent and must show proof of admission to an institution of higher learning in the United States for a minimum period of nine months. In the case of medical internships or residences, the hospital to which the applicant hopes to go must be acceptable to his registration body in the United Kingdom. Grants to graduate students are valid for a period of up to three years but are subject to annual renewal during this time. In certain instances where the candidate is enrolled for a special degree course and where the receipt of the degree is anticipated, the period of the grant may be extended to four years. Candidates must be free of National Service obligations.
- (2) PROFESSORS, LECTURERS AND SENIOR RESEARCH SCHOLARS should note that it is the objective of this programme that a maximum amount of time be spent in the United States and, therefore, the Commission gives preference to those applicants who intend to spend a full academic year there. Of this, about two-thirds should be spent at one university or recognized research institution. Applications cannot be considered from candidates who anticipate spending less than three months in the United States (exclusive of trans-Atlantic travel time). Proof of affiliation and details of its nature are necessary. Grants are not available for peripatetic visits or attendances at conferences only. Grants may be extended up to a period of two years, subject to the continuance of satisfactory appointments and dollar support.

All applicants must possess a guarantee of adequate financial support in dollars for the proposed period of the visit to the United States. The Commission wishes to point out that com-

petition for travel grants is increasingly severe and in making their selection the Commission accordingly feels bound to give preference to those applicants whose award leaves them only a small margin for travel expenses. All applicants are expected to return to reside permanently in their home countries, and four years must elapse from the date of return from the States before a second application may be considered for a Fulbright travel grant.

Those in the graduate student category are expected to go to the United States for the academic year beginning in September, 1961. For those in the lecturer/research scholar category, travel grants are available for those who are visiting the States between 1st June, 1961, and 1st April, 1962. All grants cover the cost of direct round-trip travel between a candidate's home in the United Kingdom or dependent territory and the American university or institution. No partial or one-way grants are offered. Travel funds must not be duplicated from any other source. THE COMMISSION ARRANGES BOOKINGS FOR SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS AND WHERE POSSIBLE THEIR DEPENDANTS. The Commission is, however, unable to provide allowances for dependents' travel.

Since the funds of the Commission are in non-convertible sterling, it is not possible to offer grants for maintenance, tuition or incidental expenses within the United States.

Those who receive Fulbright travel grants must procure a special visa. Detailed information with regard to this requirement will be forwarded to applicants with the full-length application forms.

The Commission reserves to itself the exclusive right to determine the validity of all qualifications presented to it and does not give reasons for its conclusions. There are two closing dates in this competition contingent upon the proposed departure date from the United Kingdom. They are:

15th MARCH, 1961, for those travelling between 1st June, 1961, and 15th August, 1961.

1st JUNE, 1961, for those travelling between 16th August, 1961 and 1st April, 1962.

Those wishing to apply are first asked to fill up a record card. *This in itself does not constitute an application.* Full-length application forms are sent only when candidates indicate that their plans are complete—giving nature of appointment and dollar support available—which must be before the appropriate closing date. Full-length applications should be submitted via the Head

of the candidate's college, university or employing body.

PLEASE NOTE.—No applications will be considered after the closing dates.

Applications should be made to UNITED STATES EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, 71 South Audley Street, London, W.1.

Members submitting application forms are requested to advise the Secretary of the L.A.

Special Library Notes

IT is with some trepidation that I assume the editorship of these notes. After an interval of more than two years, I know how difficult it is going to be to maintain the high standard set by my predecessor, Mr. D. R. Jamieson. I do feel that an exchange of ideas between special librarians of all kinds is of inestimable value, and to this end I hope that my desk will be swamped with material for inclusion in these columns. Please send any news items, etc., to me at the Research and Development Department, British Plaster Board (Holdings) Ltd., East Leake, near Loughborough, Leics. (Tel. East Leake 441). The maintenance of this feature is entirely up to you, my colleagues.

Pride of place this month must go to the Aslib Conference. This was my first conference and I found it, on the whole, a rewarding and stimulating experience, very well organized and with plenty of discussion. Whether the attractions of Brighton or the theme of the conference (Research in special library and information work) were responsible for the record attendance is a debatable point—perhaps there is room for some research here!

After a lively presidential address by Professor J. D. Bernal, we settled down to serious business on Thursday morning. Mr. Farradane informed us that he was not impressed by Aslib's research programme, which was admirably described by Mr. C. W. Hanson, and then we heard something of the progress made so far in the Aslib Cranfield Research Project on the comparative efficiency of indexing systems. It came as a surprise to most of us to learn that U.D.C. is not so bad after all—what a pity Mr. Phillips was not there. Advocates of facet were feeling very low until rallied by Mr. Mills and Miss Kyle, but we had lunch in a happier frame of mind and we were all full of admiration for the sterling efforts of Messrs. Cleverdon, Sharp and Hadlow and Miss Warburton.

Dr. Schüller did not find U.D.C. so efficient in his work at the Netherlands Technical Docu-

mentation and Information Centre and came out strongly in favour of Mortimer Taube's UNITERM system of co-ordinate indexing. Mr. Agard Evans thought this was an unfair comparison, since Dr. Schüller's UNITERM index was specially constructed for his needs, but this must surely apply to all UNITERM indexes and is one of the major advantages of the system. We then heard something of how punched cards were used for the preparation of lists of periodicals at Harwell, and after dinner we were treated to a discourse by Dr. W. O. Hassall of the Bodleian Library, which defied description. His theme was the reproduction on 35 mm. colour film of mediaeval illustrated manuscripts, and he must surely have been responsible for another conference record—the most amusement given by any speaker.

The conference closed with an account of the *Aslib survey of information/library units in industrial and commercial organizations* and descriptions of more limited surveys in the guided weapons and motor industries. The former survey must be familiar enough to all librarians by now and has been reviewed in *Nature*. The point that stands out in my mind is that only 58 per cent of the libraries covered by the survey were headed by graduates or chartered librarians. I shall have more to say about this later.

Guidance for the Librarian

British scientific and technical books, 1953-57 is "a select list of recommended books published in Great Britain and the Commonwealth", edited by L. J. Anthony and published for Aslib by James Clarke & Co. Ltd. It is a continuation of *British scientific and technical books, 1935-52*, and, like its forerunner, is arranged in U.D.C. order with indexes of authors and subjects. The items are graded according to their suitability for various classes of reader, and the layout of the new volume is an improvement in that the U.D.C. notation is repeated on each page. One may wonder whether this publication is really needed in these days of *B.N.B.*, but the latter is not really a *guide*, and in any case, cannot always be justified in libraries which are interested in a very limited field of knowledge.

Telex. The Reference, Special and Information Section of the Library Association has produced a *Library telex directory*, which lists 131 libraries with access to telex. The addition of Aslib to the list makes the present total at least 132.

Translations. A useful little publication is *A guide to foreign languages for scientific librarians and bibliographers*, compiled by J. R. F. Piette,

formerly librarian and translator at the Welsh Plant Breeding Station. Its purpose is to help librarians to deal with scientific literature in foreign languages and to address correspondence to foreign countries, and under each language special attention is paid to the alphabet, typographical peculiarities, rules of syllabification, articles, surnames, layout of correspondence, etc. A short glossary of the most important languages is also given. The guide is obtainable, price 5s., from The Secretary, Welsh Plant Breeding Station, Plas Gogerddan, near Aberystwyth.

Building. The Division of Building Research of the National Research Council of Canada has issued a handy *List of publications, 1947-1959*. The list is obtainable, free of charge, from the National Research Council, Canada, who incidentally have a coupon system to facilitate payment for publications.

Chemistry

Industrial (and some public) librarians will view the further increase in the price of *Chemical abstracts* with some concern. Next year's price is \$925 compared with \$570 in 1960, and one wonders when the upper limit will be reached.

The Chemical Abstracts Service of the American Chemical Society recently began publication of *Chemical titles*, which lists, under keywords and authors, articles in 550 journals in the fields of pure and applied chemistry. The list is prepared by means of punched cards and the appearance of the entries is not, to say the least, pleasing to the eye. But the great advantage is speed—it is claimed that all titles appear within two weeks of the time the journals are received by the publishers—and at \$65 per annum (\$50 for universities and colleges), this journal should be well worth its keep.

The first issue of *Russian chemical reviews*, that for January 1960, appeared in August. This is a cover-to-cover translation of the Russian journal *Uspekhi khimii* and is published monthly by the Chemical Society and distributed by Cleaver-Hume Press at £12 per annum (£9 for university and college libraries). The late appearance of this journal is apparently due to translation difficulties. Other cover-to-cover translations of Russian journals distributed by Cleaver-Hume Press include *Russian journal of inorganic chemistry* (monthly, commencing January 1959, £30 per annum, £22 10s. for university and college libraries) and *Russian journal of physical chemistry* (monthly, commencing July 1959. Subscriptions as for *Russian journal of inorganic chemistry*, or £45 for the 18 issues

July 1959-December 1960, £33 15s. for university and college libraries).

I understand that a meeting was held recently between Captain I. R. Maxwell of Pergamon Press and representatives of the Library Association. Captain Maxwell answered various criticisms and said that "Pergamon Press now realized the importance of dealing promptly with complaints from subscribers". My experience belies this; not only have I frequently had cause to complain about non-receipt of journals from these publishers but they also seem to be incapable of replying to letters of complaint. I should be interested to know whether my experience is unique.

Classification

Classification was to the fore at the Aslib conference and is often to the fore in the minds of special librarians. Two recent books on the subject are *A modern outline of library classification* by J. Mills (Chapman & Hall, 36s.) and *Faceted classification: a guide to the construction and use of special schemes*, prepared by B. C. Vickery for the Classification Research Group (Aslib, 12s. 6d., or 10s. to members).

Mr. Mills' book includes the clearest exposition of facet analysis which I have read, as would be expected by anybody who has been fortunate enough to hear him lecture. Although intended mainly as a guide for Registration Examination students—and there is no excuse for any of them failing the examination if they read this—it could be read to advantage by many qualified librarians. Unfortunately the Varityping is not easy on the eye. (Reviewed on p. 418 of this issue.)

I have not yet seen Mr. Vickery's book but look forward to reading it. His standing in the classification field is well known to all.

Patents

All librarians who have anything to do with patents will know what a headache they can be, but they are often of very great value as sources of information. Classification or indexing is not the least of their problems and I am at present experimenting with a UNITERM index for my small collection. Aslib held a course on patent procedure on October 4th and 5th, and a one-day course was held at Liverpool College of Commerce in March. Those of us who attended the latter were generally agreed that, while the course was undoubtedly helpful, too much was crowded into one day. Mr. Snape tells me that he is hoping to arrange a follow-up to this course

early in 1961, to last at least two days, and he would welcome suggestions of topics for inclusion.

Staff

Finally a note about special library staff. I have already deplored the findings of the Aslib survey with regard to qualifications. A recent issue of *The Daily Telegraph* included an advertisement for an Assistant Librarian at Turner Brothers Asbestos Co. Ltd., Rochdale. Paragraph two of the advertisement stated that "the work would consist of abstracting from journals and patents, indexing and dealing with staff enquiries". Paragraph three said that previous experience was desirable but *not essential* (my italics). Paragraph four stated that "a suitable candidate could gain promotion to Librarian in a few years' time". Is any further comment necessary?

K. G. B. BAKEWELL

Notes on Out-of-Print Books

In the April 1960 *Notes*, I gave details of a development of University Microfilms xerographic printing service by the offset process which results in a considerable reduction of costs when an "edition" is produced instead of single copies. University Microfilms have now formed a new company, Unifax Limited, which is at present operating. A more economical and quicker service will however be given by mid-November 1960 when a Copyflo printing machine will have been installed. There is still the same difficulty in reproducing half-tones satisfactorily and the size of the paper mat still governs the maximum size for any book produced.

On behalf of London and Home Counties Branch, I have now received the following quotations, using the same example as in the April 1960 *Notes* of a book of 300 pages, 8 in. × 6½ in. maximum, the cost of a single xerocopy being £9 10s. as before.

50 copies of xerox-offset, inclusive of durable paper bindings. Approximately £2 16s. 1d. per copy or 2½d. per page. April quotation, now cancelled, was £4 1s. 3d. per copy or 3½d. per page.

100 copies by xerox-offset, inclusive of durable paper bindings. Approximately £1 19s. 7d. per copy or 1½d. per page. April quotation, now cancelled was £2 16s. 3d. per copy or 2½d. per page.

I have incidentally found out that W. H. Auden's *Poems* is available as a xerocopy in paper binding at 23s., with postage extra, from Ann Arbor.

NORMAN TOMLINSON

J. D. Stewart Travelling Bursary

The J. D. Stewart Travelling Bursary was awarded by the London and Home Counties Branch Committee in 1957 to mark Mr. Stewart's long and unbroken service to the Branch. In 1959 Mrs. Peggy Heeks won the award of £25 and visited France and Denmark, while in 1960, Mrs. Thelma Bristow gained the bursary and visited Russia.

For 1961 and succeeding years, the award stands at £50. All applicants must be personal members of the London and Home Counties Branch of the Library Association and they must have already passed, or be exempt from the First Professional examination and be actively engaged in studying for the Registration or Final examination, or for the Diploma of the University of London School of Librarianship and Archives. Applicants must declare that they are making an overseas visit for the specific purpose of studying librarianship and visiting overseas libraries and the successful applicant will be required to submit a written report on return to this country.

Intending applicants for the 1961 award can obtain the full conditions and an application form from Mr. H. G. T. Christopher, A.L.A., Honorary Secretary/Treasurer, Penge Public Library, 194 Anerley Road, S.E.20. Completed applications must be in Mr. Christopher's hands not later than 1st January, 1961.

Book of Kells Exhibition

By courtesy of the President and Council of the Royal Academy of Arts, the Library of Trinity College, Dublin, is holding an exhibition at Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W.1 from 12th January to 5th March, 1961. It will be formally opened by the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres at 12 noon on Wednesday, 11th January.

The principal exhibits at the exhibition will be St. Matthew's Gospel of the Book of Kells, and the Books of Durrow, Dimma, and Armagh. The Trustees of the British Museum are lending the Gospels of Lindisfarne and for the first time in history these manuscripts will be seen side by side. To supplement the manuscripts the exhibition designer, Mr. Alan Irvine, is using enlarged photographs of details from the Book of Kells on a considerable scale.

Entrance to the exhibition, which will be open 10 a.m.-6.30 p.m. (2 p.m.-6 p.m. on Sundays), will cost 2s. 6d. A catalogue will be available, and it will be possible to buy postcards and reproductions.

In connexion with the exhibition a series of lectures has been arranged at Burlington House on each Thursday evening at 6 p.m. In addition, at the Victoria and Albert Museum, Dr. H. W. Parke will lecture on "The Treasures of Trinity College Library", on 11th January, and Mr. W. O'Sullivan will lecture on the "Book of Kells", on 18th January.

British Society of Aesthetics

Following a letter which appeared in the June issue of the *RECORD* regarding a proposed British Society of Aesthetics, the Hon. Secretary (Miss S. Schweppe, c/o Department of Philosophy, Birkbeck College), writes of the enthusiastic response she has received. Leading personalities in philosophy and the arts, such as Yehudi Menuhin, Sir Herbert Read, Eric Newton, Peter Stadlen and Adrian Stokes, important institutions such as the British Council, Trinity College of Music, and public libraries have joined, at a subscription of £2 2s.

Meetings have been arranged until next June and the first issue of the *British Journal of Aesthetics*, a quarterly, is due to appear this month.

Correspondence

Revision of Syllabus

MR. S. J. BUTCHER, F.L.A., *Secretary, Association of Metropolitan Chief Librarians*, writes:

The Association of Metropolitan Chief Librarians has given lengthy and deliberate consideration to the proposals for revision of the examination syllabus and has had a full and frank discussion with Miss Paulin and the Education Officer.

We are not convinced of the need for a new examination syllabus and believe that the present one, which was devised with the co-operation of Aslib, can be adapted to meet valid criticism. The Association is not opposed to a revision if some improvement can be achieved but we feel that the present moment is most inopportune in view of the formulation of national salary scales and the action on staffing which is envisaged in the Roberts Report. It is suggested that the Advisory Bodies when established should consider this question but if this is not possible then the Library Association is asked to give earnest consideration to setting up an independent working party, on which Chief Librarians and others holding executive positions should be represented.

We urge the postponement of the adoption of the proposals regarding the new syllabus until an independent working party has had an opportunity to examine the whole background of professional education.

GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION

1. The minimum pre-entry qualification for the Library Association examinations is at present higher than that demanded in other departments of Local Government and it does not seem opportune at the present time to raise the standard still higher. Although we do not believe it necessary to raise the present standard regarding the G.C.E. qualification, we do feel that there would be some point in the definite exclusion of certain subjects.

2. Some Authorities see no reason why the G.C.E. standard for library assistants should be higher than that required by the National Joint Council. It will be quite impossible to convince such Authorities of the need to raise the standard yet again. We suggest it would have been wise to have consulted the National

Joint Council on the implications of this proposal.

The N.J.C. circular No. 154, para 2/iv provides for recruitment on a higher G.C.E. level; the details have yet to be worked out. It would seem, therefore, that this could well fit in with the L.A.'s ideas of division of staff into professional and non-professional and is a further example why we should wait until the exact proposals are known.

3. The difficulty of recruiting junior staff has shown little if any improvement in the last fourteen years and we see no prospect of the situation easing. If the change in the entrance standard and abolition of the F.P.E. is to be deferred until the recruiting position is vastly better, it is obviously inopportune to announce the prospective changes at this juncture.

FIRST PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATION

4. It is misguided to accept a G.C.E. standard as a substitute for the First Professional Examination.

5. The F.P.E. serves not only as a useful introduction to the professional examinations but provides a working background of knowledge for many library assistants who do not make librarianship a lifelong career.

6. It is doubtful if Authorities which grant additional increments for the F.P.E. would be willing to do so for additional or higher G.C.E. passes.

REGISTRATION EXAMINATION

7. The requirement that the new Registration examination will have to be taken and passed at one and the same sitting will virtually abolish part-time study and substitute full-time attendance at library schools. Conditions of employment in libraries make it essential for the continuation of part-time study. We see nothing inherently wrong in these studies providing they are not unduly prolonged; if the papers in the Registration examination were taken in groups of two or three, it would still be feasible to undertake part-time study and yet retain a satisfactory degree of integration. The Association is not opposed to full-time study but believes that it should be linked to a reasonable method of part-time study. The prospect of full-time attendance at a library school together with the

inevitable financial stringency, will be another serious deterrent to prospective entrants to the profession.

Staffing arrangements, as they exist today and within the foreseeable future, will not permit many local authorities to release staff in any number for attendance at library schools.

The possibility of librarians employed in Government departments being able to undertake full-time study should also be explored.

8. If implemented, the proposals will lead, inevitably, to a large number of persons leaving library schools with qualifications but little or no practical experience. The L.A. should ensure that no part of the Registration examination can be attempted, unless the candidate has worked for at least 12 months in an approved library.

9. We question if any purpose is served in the attempt to relate in principle the L.A. examinations with the examination practice of the teaching profession which is wholly different in character.

10. Should the proposals be adopted we doubt whether the present structure of Schools of Librarianship would be able to cope effectively with the number of students which will ensue. We are concerned as to the lack of senior tutors with suitable professional experience in executive posts.

11. The theory that higher qualification automatically brings higher salary is erroneous. Many officials in Town Halls with no examination qualifications whatsoever receive salaries in APT IV and F.L.A.'s in libraries average about APT III.

MR. F. HATT, A.L.A., *Librarian, Bromley Technical College*, writes:

I have been waiting for an authoritative voice to comment publicly on what seem to me astonishing shortcomings in the proposed syllabus. No such voice is to be heard, perhaps because all their owners have forgotten what it is like to study for examinations, so I must speak for myself.

What I find astonishing is that the Syllabus Sub-Committee should still be offering a Final Examination requiring such a diversity of papers that no student can help regarding most of those he takes as a dull and irksome necessity. An artificial hurdle is fine at Registration level, where the embryo administrator or readers' adviser cannot complain at having to study cataloguing although he may vow secretly that he'll join the Unemployment Benefit queue sooner than the

cataloguing department. Do we want it at Final level?

I am baffled by the statement that "the principle of no compulsory re-examination in any subject at different levels" has guided the Syllabus Sub-Committee on their journey to the proposed syllabus. Every Final paper deals with a section of a Registration paper taken, one assumes, to a more advanced level. Papers in Final Group A represent specializations within Registration Papers 1 and 2, Final Group B takes specializations from Registration papers 1 and 4, Final Group C from Registration paper 5. Does this reflect the principle of no compulsory re-examination in any subject?

In fact this is a wrong-headed principle, or one that has been badly stated. In a progression of examinations there is bound to be re-examination of a kind. The principle we need is one of compulsory re-examination in one speciality only. We are told that "The new Registration Examination consists of a 'core' of subjects which are common to all kinds of libraries . . ." If this core is adequately taught and examined in, why is it necessary to examine a candidate at Final level in three groups of papers? Why should he have to be examined in "the work of various kinds of libraries" and in "techniques" and in a "special subject field"? The proposed Final syllabus is an expression of no confidence in the proposed Registration syllabus.

We need a Final syllabus which will engage a lively and mature interest. If anybody believes the proposed syllabus will do that, then he can have no idea what I mean by engage. Or perhaps lively? Or mature? The habits of the old syllabus have tied knots in our minds which we are only drawing tighter. We have become so accustomed to dull and useless examinations that we find it hard to conceive an examination for chartered librarians which simply adds discipline and form to a man's natural inclination to identify with one small area of our sprawling professional activity.

It is strange that our new syllabus should start from the assumption that studying for a Final examination must of necessity be a course of suffering. Are we so cynical, or so puritan? I wouldn't think so. Certainly not the librarians I know best, the ones aged between 25 and 35. So is this the syllabus we want? I can't believe it. There has been a failure of communication somewhere between the profession and its leaders. We've tripped over our own committees. We should have said very clearly, we want a Final syllabus that will treat us as qualified librarians

and give us a chance to do some really advanced work. We should have said, we're embarrassed at professional conflicts (bookman/administrator, librarian/information officer, pro-fiction/anti-fiction, etc.) that repeat themselves over and over, never amounting to discussion because nobody gets time to develop cohesive ideas and test them.

We should have said those things. Now I have. Is it too late?

MR. N. J. CHAMBERS, *Assistant, Islington Public Libraries*, writes:

As an assistant in a public library, and having read various articles on, and outlines of, the proposals for the new syllabus in the professional press, I should like to point out to the membership of the Library Association the dangers inherent therein; and to express my grave concern over this matter.

I have discussed these proposals at some length, with friends and colleagues on the staff of the public libraries of this borough, and the majority agree that, if put into effect, the result would be a severe set-back in recruiting and an insurmountable obstacle to qualification to those staff unable to attend full-time school.

Further, I feel that part-time school and study is at least equal in merit to full-time school as a method of qualification since it affords an invaluable opportunity of putting theory into practice. I would most strongly object to the cessation of this method of study.

With the greatest respect to the committee presenting these proposals, I feel that raising the entrance qualifications to a level higher than that required by any comparable profession and then making it impossible to qualify except by full-time school is no way either to attract recruits or to raise the status of the profession of librarianship.

Finally, I would urge all members of the L.A. to re-read these proposals critically. Should they find in them, as I do, cause for grave disquiet, I must urge them to protest long and vigorously before it is too late!

MR. PAUL SYKES, D.M.A., F.L.A., *City Librarian of Peterborough*, writes:

Although I have been expecting the opinion to be expressed for some time, it came as a shock, nonetheless, to read Mr. Milligan's letter in the October issue of the RECORD. In common with an increasing number of advertisers in the quality newspapers, and—sad to say—in the professional press, Mr. Milligan apparently believes in a

Divine Right of graduates, and although librarianship must move with the educational times and welcome into its ranks the raw recruits from the Redbricks, it really is going too far to "assume that the graduate is necessarily conversant" with the "*bibliography and librarianship* in a special subject field".

In recent years a number of attempts have been made to undermine the status of our professional qualifications and now we have a suggestion for a new take-over bid based on the assumption that all graduates are partly trained for library work whether they enter the profession or not! Is it any wonder that our professional status is so low when such arrogant claims are made *from within the profession*?

The facts are quite simple. We have a Final qualification which is recognized by the Ministry of Education as equivalent to a university degree, and Mr. Milligan concedes the "Group C is now so comprehensive that it should not be difficult to find in it papers of the same subject and scope as are offered by degree courses at most universities today".

Surely the logical approach is to work towards a degree in librarianship, or must our great profession degenerate into a post-graduate tit-bit?

MR. A. P. SHEARMAN, A.L.A., *Senior Assistant, Islington Public Libraries*, writes:

A correspondence in the *Guardian*, following a directive from the Ministry of Education on the training of graduate teachers, makes an instructive and ironical commentary, with adaptation, on the present controversy over the education of librarians. Librarians may like to substitute the terminology relevant to themselves in the excerpts which follow. Needless to say, to show a parity with the teaching profession is not my purpose; rather it is that the L.A. should think again about some of their disastrous "proposals".

I quote from the issue of 17th October, 1960:

"I read the letter on the use of graduate teachers with much interest, so much so that I showed it to the members of my school staff. There was general agreement with the protest against the Ministry's letter, its implications and the disastrous consequences resulting to the teaching profession as a whole . . . I hope the publication of this letter will encourage him and all so like minded to maintain the assault upon such Ministry directives until the Ministry is possessed of a realistic attitude to the nature and the profession of teaching and adopts a policy, based on awareness and relevance to both. This directive is indicative of the extent to which our ideas about education are dominated by what can only be described as 'degree idolatry'.

"Students will often commend their tutors as kind and pleasant people but constantly affirm that the technique of teaching, which is the most important thing they need to know about, is dealt with in the most superficial and cursory manner. Time and again, I hear it said that the only value of the course lies in the teaching practice, when in a co-operative school the student can repeatedly ask questions of the 'man doing the job now', watch him in action and get a feeling for technique. . . . Many lecturers have been schoolmasters themselves but long ago got the chalk out of their hair and perhaps understandably are not willing to get it back again.

"Let the research people in education sit in the university—that is where they belong—but the people whose job it is to teach how to teach, should be stationed in the schools, in the line of fire, sweating it out with the permanent staff and sharing in their frustration, elation, experiments, failures and successes. When this happens we shall all support compulsory training and no more students are going to think that they have wasted a year and learnt little from their course but what some solid reading by themselves would have conveyed."

For comments on the other proposals, it is not necessary to add to the increasing body of literature on the subject: please, Miss Paulin and fellow committee members, read or re-read "Status" by R. E. Marston, *Assistant Librarian*, January, 1958.

MRS. J. A. FOLEY, *Hon. Secretary, Tottenham P.L. Staff Guild*, writes:

At a recent meeting of the Tottenham Public Libraries and Museum Staff Guild, we discussed the new Library Association syllabus. Out of the discussion the following were the main points:

1. That the regulation making the taking of the Registration Exam. at one sitting compulsory, is particularly difficult for older entrants, who would find great difficulty financially in attending full-time schools, as authority grants are not adequate.

2. That the new Registration Exam. devalues the status of present Chartered Librarians. The emphasis should be on practical librarianship, and there should be optional papers at Registration level for those doing, for example, work with young people.

3. That by raising the education standard to qualify to take Registration, it will be found that the number of suitable entrants will fall considerably. Young students taking subjects at "A" level will have a much more remunerative post in mind. Will there be sufficient number of posts that a Chartered Librarian could expect to receive? We cannot believe there will.

We hope that the above will be of interest to you and would look forward to reading the opinions of other libraries on this subject.

MISS M. BENNETT, A.L.A., *Hon. Secretary, W. Riding County Library Staff Association*, writes:

With reference to the recent article in the Library Association RECORD, the Committee of this Association decided to endeavour to obtain a collective view on the published proposals. In order to make this as representative as possible, it was decided to consult all our professional members.

The replies to a prepared questionnaire showed a diversity of opinion in detail. There was, however, general agreement that, whilst most of the proposals are welcomed, they are unrealistic for the following two main reasons:

1. Unless there is considerable improvement in the long-term career prospects in the profession which will make it more competitive with other professions aiming at entrants similarly qualified, candidates of the proposed standard will just not be forthcoming.

2. In order to achieve the aims envisaged in the examination proposals there would have to be a complete overhaul of the entire training system: the provision of grants sufficiently large to allow a student a basic standard of living on a uniform basis (i.e., not left to the mercy of each individual Local Authority) with family allowances for married students; a considerable extension and improvement of library schools and study facilities; a properly organized system of practical training in efficient and approved libraries. This latter condition is at present not widely realized and the need for thorough practical training was stressed in all the replies received. It was felt also that the report does not give sufficient attention to this problem.

On the details of the new syllabus, there was unenthusiastic approval in general but some criticism in detail, not, however, affecting the principles outlined.

(Further correspondence on this subject held over.)

MR. PHILLIPS

MR. BENJAMIN A. CUSTER, *Editor of the Dewey Decimal Classification, c/o The Library of Congress*, writes:

The editors and publishers of the *Dewey Decimal Classification* have followed with interest the correspondence in these columns on the application of the DC. They are inclined to feel that the position expounded by Mr. W. H. Phillips is that with which they would generally associate themselves.

The latest (16th) full edition of the DC was prepared as a shelf classification which could meet the needs of general libraries of any size, though not necessarily those of special libraries. One of its chief virtues, as in earlier editions, is the complete simplicity of its notation. It is not intended to be used for deep bibliographical analysis nor is it built on a framework of philosophical theories. In accordance with this concept of its use, the 16th edition dropped the 00 and 000 common subdivisions that had been included in earlier editions as part of DC's programme of liaison with the UDC (which is, of course, a bibliographical classification).

We should like to point out that the use of mixed notation and of punctuation marks other than the decimal point, and the grafting onto DC base numbers of expansions and adaptations, constructed according to faceted or other unauthorized patterns, are not in accord with Decimal Classification principles. Take DC or leave it, but pray do not tinker with it and then call us to account for the dissatisfaction you find in the results!

DUTIES OF CHILDREN'S LIBRARIANS

MRS. C. M. MARTIN, F.L.A., *Children's Librarian, St. Pancras Public Libraries*, writes:

Librarians should really stop to think before rushing into print; Mr. W. G. Smith, for example, has evidently no experience of work with children, if he thinks there is little demand from them for the latest books. One of the best things about the television programmes is their inclusion of critical appraisals of new books for children, to say nothing of suggestions coming over the sound radio and from such reputable periodicals as *The Elizabethan*. Often, new books are serialized dramatically over these media. Then parents come to the library to look at the new books before present-buying, and, more importantly, teachers depend to a large extent on being able to consult the public library stock before acquiring the best of the new publications for their school libraries.

New books are often no better than old ones; but a children's library which added nothing until it was a year old would soon find itself short of borrowers.

MR. A. G. TURNEY, F.L.A., *Children's Librarian, Stoke-on-Trent Public Libraries*, writes:

Mr. W. G. Smith (October issue) argues that children's librarians do not need up-to-date book reviews, because children are not always wanting the latest books. They may not want all of them;

they certainly want some of them. Children, after all, listen to the radio and watch television; they sometimes go in bookshops; they have friends who recommend new books to them; they have parents who hear about recent books. Not all new books are worth buying immediately, but some are. Children's librarians are as much entitled to up-to-date guidance as anyone else.

The correct solution is not for librarians to keep the children waiting, but for reviewers to hurry up.

BRITISH LIBRARIANSHIP OVERSEAS

MR. L. M. HARROD, F.L.A., writes:

I would like to support the views expressed by Mr. W. J. Plumbe in his article in the Sept. RECORD, and wish to underline his plea for the L.A. to do much more than is at present being done to help, not only our members, but librarians generally, who are working overseas.

Librarians who have gone abroad find themselves almost isolated professionally; they miss the contacts which they made at home, and were almost unaware of because they had become part of their normal life; every contact they make abroad has to be achieved by an effort on their part. The L.A., and librarian and trade friends are always willing to give any assistance or information needed, but it is not easy to find out what is new in techniques or equipment. The English librarian abroad is out of touch.

But he is in a much better position than the non-English librarian who has been in England for a year or two at a library school, and returned to his native land almost as soon as his course was over. He has not had the opportunity of making those contacts and getting the wide experience of libraries which would be so very useful to him when back in his own country. He is more isolated professionally than the English librarian abroad. He is probably further handicapped by having to shoulder responsibilities which he would be considered insufficiently qualified or experienced to undertake in a library in England.

There are hundreds of people trying to provide some form of library service in overseas countries without the necessary "know how". In many cases they are doing a fairly good job, but they could do a far better job if there were someone in their country to show or tell them how to do something more efficiently. (One has seen the most appalling mistakes in planning and equipment, and time-wasting methodology.) These folk greatly outnumber the others, and they are in urgent need of guidance. Sometimes they realize it; sometimes they don't. If they do,

it's not easy to get guidance even if they know to whom to go—which often they don't.

Mr. Plumbe's suggestion no. 1 is very important and I hope the L.A. Council will act upon it. The A.L.A. have (or had until very recently) an officer who toured the world visiting libraries, and his special responsibilities were to keep contact with overseas librarians, helping them all he could. If we had an officer who could do the same thing, it would do an immense amount of good; not only practical good to libraries in distant countries but moral good to the librarians. By periodic visits to countries he could discover what proposals there were for expanding library services or erecting buildings—he might even prevent, or ameliorate, the completely impractical designing of buildings intended to be used as libraries, which occurs from time to time under present circumstances. The submission of "opinions", or reports, to local library authorities either formally or informally, would carry more "weight" through having been written after personal "on the spot" consideration of all relevant circumstances. They would certainly strengthen the hand of the local librarian. Carefully planned tours would enable arrangements to be made for such an officer to give public talks on library services, on talks to committees on some particular local problem, or talks to library assistants. Many students of librarianship in distant countries are severely handicapped by having no conception of what a library service as we know it in England can mean, because their experience of libraries is extremely limited and they have no background library knowledge and little experience of libraries other than the one in which they work. A short course of lectures, or even an isolated one, illustrated by a film strip (I found the one I made and took to Singapore extremely useful) would be of inestimable value to such students. The number of young librarians needing knowledge of this kind is increasing all the time; too few of them can go abroad on study courses and they cannot easily find in print the information they need. The L.A. has hundreds of members working outside the British Isles, and there are even more potential members; they are at present apt to feel somewhat neglected.

Although the setting up of library schools is desirable in a few countries, they cannot yet be formed wherever they are needed because of insufficient local people with the necessary knowledge, aptitude or ability, who are willing to lecture. Most of the eligible librarians are over-burdened with work and responsibilities,

and cannot devote hours each week to preparing conscientiously lectures of the standard required to get candidates through the exams., and marking homework. Then there is the question of ability: not every well-qualified or efficient librarian is *ipso facto* a good lecturer or teacher. If the L.A. could alone, or with the co-operation of the library schools, the British Council, and the British and overseas governments, draw up a panel, or appoint a staff, of tutors to go to overseas library schools for periods of from six months to two years as circumstances required, it would probably enable classes to be started which cannot yet be begun because there are not enough suitable lecturers available. It would strengthen the schools which already exist, and would possibly help to fill gaps caused by unexpected resignations, long periods of leave or sickness. The tutors would have to be assured of security of employment; they would in effect be visiting tutors, returning to a job in England.

I doubt whether there is much need to change the Registration Exam. syllabus to meet the needs and circumstances of overseas students, providing examination questions are not insular.

Most overseas students have to study by means of the A.A.L. correspondence courses. In some subjects there are too many references in the lesson papers to readings in books which are now out of print. Such books do not exist anywhere in some countries; we had only one copy of McColvin's report on the *Public library system of Great Britain* and one copy of Brown's *Manual*—and that not the latest edition—in Singapore for about 8 students taking the F.P.E., and the latter was referred to in nearly every lesson paper for the F.P.E. Unfortunately, the tutors' notes did not make up for these deficiencies, or indicate the relative importance of the recommended readings; they are often quite inadequate for the overseas student.

A paper in the Final Exam. on the special needs of tropical librarianship would be most useful, but there is at present very little literature on the subject; it would therefore have to be taught by means of a detailed correspondence course. There would also have to be some organization for disseminating news of developments, experiments in library design and equipment, use of libraries, methods of dealing with problems which arise in tropical countries, literary campaigns, publication of books for new literates, etc., so that all working in, or studying, this particular field of librarianship could be informed of what is going on. Some of us know a little of the available material and what developments

are taking place, but too few know enough; the average student probably knows very little.

British librarianship is expanding rapidly as the number of libraries increases throughout the English-speaking world, and British librarians are in demand in Australia and Canada as well as in the countries nearer home. The need for knowledge and assistance, often expressed, but more often unrecognized, is probably greater now than it has ever been before. What can we, through the L.A., do to meet it?

LIBRARIANS AND THEIR COMMITTEES

MR. W. A. MUNFORD, M.B.E., B.Sc.(Econ.), F.L.A., *Director-General, National Library for the Blind*, writes:

Librarians normally attend meetings of their own committees and we may tend to assume that this seemingly essential practice has always prevailed. There have been some interesting variations, however.

E. W. B. Nicholson was frequently excluded from meetings of the Bodleian Curators during the later part of his service at Oxford, but this seems to have been due entirely to their bad relationship with him. On the other hand, unless I have read their Minute Books wrongly, the committees of the London Institution, which he served as Librarian and General Superintendent (on good and friendly terms) from 1873 to 1882, always met without him. It has also recently become clear to me, through the reading of Manchester newspapers of the period, that Edward Edwards did not attend one single meeting of the Manchester Library Committee during his municipal service there (1852-1858). This can hardly have been due to bad relationships during at least the first part of the period and, in any case, he was forced out of his post there by the council activities of a *minority* of his committee.

Meeting in the absence of their librarians may well have been normal committee practice last century and, if so, it would help to throw light on a number of questions which have long puzzled me. I am now inclined to think, for example, that the early twentieth century textbook insistence that the municipal librarian should also act as clerk to his committee stemmed much less from the desire to draft minutes than to be present at all meetings. Otherwise how fully to understand the following extract from the first (1903) edition of Brown's *Manual*:—

"We have already recommended that a librarian should act as clerk and we may now give some reasons why this course should always be taken. The librarian is the only

official who holds all the threads of work and routine in his hands or who thoroughly understands the practical working of the institution. By combining the functions he remains in touch with his committee, and can much better understand their views than if a second person acts as intermediary or interpreter." (pp. 63-4)?

I would like to know in particular whether it was normal practice for the early public library committees to meet without their librarians and, if so, when the practice was changed? I am satisfied that Committee Minute books themselves quite frequently fail to answer the question definitely in one way or the other. Can any other librarians help?

PUBLIC RELATIONS

MR. P. HEPWORTH, M.A., F.L.A., *City Librarian of Norwich*, writes:

No N.J.C. award for library staffs! No mention of public libraries in the Queen's speech! From authors contumely, and the bland acceptance that libraries—principally public libraries, mind you, because they are not "educational institutions"—will be required to mark on supplied lists of copyright works the number of issues they have made annually (Libraries (Public Lending Right) Bill). Presumably in "devising their own procedure" for this return, the libraries will also be allowed to indent for extra non-professional staff.

It is high time the public generally were aware of some of the free assistance given to authors by libraries. The following incidents from my own library, in no case involving ratepayers of Norwich, are by no means exceptional:

1. An author of an excellent biography spent almost a full day here, studying the major collection of holograph manuscripts relating to his subject. His extensive published bibliographical apparatus does not indicate that any such material exists in any British public library, and could well mislead future scholars (on being challenged he very courteously blamed the printers' strike of 1959).

2. A writer of the first eminence, compiling a "county" series of books, sent by post seventy-seven queries involving numerous excursions around Norwich by members of my reference staff, and the dispatch of letters totalling seventeen closely typed pages (some in reply to desperate men in Norfolk who forwarded on questions they couldn't answer themselves). A feature article on this writer's project appeared in a "quality" national daily in April, containing the statement that he was "*almost single-handed* (my italics) . . . writing a commentary . . ."

and that "the most important work is done by (his) two assistants". Nowhere in this long article are public libraries mentioned.

3. A bibliographer followed up many hours of checking by six letters involving eleven closely typed pages in reply. We now casually discover from the *Pilgrim Trust Annual Report, 1959*, that all this related to the production of a full catalogue of one of our "local" libraries. On making further enquiries for a copy from the producing agency, we were politely informed we could have one "for £100 or less".

4. The compiler of a forthcoming list of serials commissioned microfilms of a very high percentage of our unique holdings of early Norfolk newspapers from a commercial firm. The filming, done in this library, would have involved the supervision of a responsible member of my staff for weeks, and would have undoubtedly caused extra damage to already fragile volumes. Knowing that the firm was working for profit, I stipulated that the work could be done if they would deposit here one positive copy of the resultant microfilm, as some acknowledgement of our services. The negotiations were not pursued.

All the above examples, of course, are of work that those of us who hold important research material delight to do. In none of the cases cited was the inadequate recognition deliberate; all the individuals referred to sent grateful letters; before the war they would probably have sent us free copies of their books. It may be a compliment to be taken for granted, but the unfavourable or indifferent public image remains. What of it, Mr. Higgins or Mr. Surridge?

Postscript. It is a pleasure to mention, in shining contrast, Dr. Owen Chadwick, Master of Selwyn, who, in connection with *Victorian miniature* (1960):

(a) cites both in his acknowledgements and (more important) his sources, his indebtedness to the Norwich Public Libraries;

(b) on discovering a gap in one of our manuscript sources, persuaded the owner of the missing portion to deposit it;

(c) asked Hodder and Stoughton to present us with a copy of his book on publication.

If libraries have obligations, so have authors. In Norfolk during the past decade Professor Norman Davis, the late Lord Ironside, Mr. Neil Ker, Mr. R. W. Ketton-Cremer and many local celebrities have recognized this.

If the Libraries (Public Lending Right) Bill becomes law, the many others who consider a "mention in acknowledgements" or less, adequate, must think again.

HOSPITAL LIBRARY SERVICES

MR. RONALD STURT, F.L.A., *Regional Librarian, Mid-Herts*, writes:

The need is urgent for the organization within the L.A. of all librarians who work with sick and

handicapped people. Members of the Association who participate in:

(a) hospital library services,

(b) services to old people and the disabled,

(c) library and similar services for the blind,

and who would be interested in the formation of a group or section are invited to write to Mrs. Jean Clarke, A.L.A., Hospital Librarian, St. Thomas' Hospital, London, S.E.1, giving brief details of name, service and authority.

Two points may be emphasized:

1. The absence of an official body concerned with the problems of library service to sick and handicapped people has been deplored during the recent course in Hospital Librarianship at the North-Western Polytechnic.

2. Attention has been focussed sharply on library provision in hospitals by the publication of the Pilot Survey by the King Edward Fund for London.

The announcement of the major building programme of new hospitals is, by itself, a challenge to members of the L.A. to see that, at the highest level, the value of a library service is clearly expressed, the need realized, and the planning co-ordinated with that of other hospital departments. This may require all the experience, ability and energy that the Association is able to command from those interested and active in these fields.

A STATE INSPECTORATE

MRS. E. M. GRAHAM, B.A., F.L.A., writes:

I was interested to see from the article on "The Danish library system" (RECORD, September, 1960) that there is a State Inspectorate of Public Libraries in Denmark. Would not this be the best way of ensuring a nation-wide high standard in Britain, too?—state inspection resulting in constructive proposals for improvement and accompanied by government grants. After all, schools are open to inspection, why not libraries? As things are, the criterion of success rests largely in the number of issues; and, to quote E. P. Pritchard in his "Adult Education Notes", "figures can only be concerned with quantity, not with quality".

In this connection one might quote from the address "Books and the common man", by Mr. J. G. O'Leary, printed in *The Bookseller*, 17th September: "I am not blind to the fact that success with library authorities is much aided by increasing figures, but are all the standards to be thrown away? Are we no longer to preach the value of good reading but merely to hand out

the goods in ever increasing numbers?" It seems to me that a State Inspector of Libraries would support the librarian in his attempt to preserve standards against the local authority valuing high issues and low expenditure. (I suppose the Roberts Committee considered and rejected this suggestion.)

To return to Mr. Pritchard's notes on extension activities, it seems to me that the celebrity lecture attracting an audience of a hundred or more is less valuable than a discussion group of twenty or thirty. Do any public libraries organize wireless discussion or literary discussion groups nowadays?

In this contribution to the "Limits of control" series in *The Times Literary Supplement* (1st July), Saul Bellow mentioned the isolation of the woman in Illinois who borrowed Proust or *Anna Karenina*, but could not discuss them with anyone. Her friends at the bridge club would think it odd that she should want to read such books. Is the situation of the housewife in Britain any different? Small villages of a few hundred souls run their bridge clubs weekly throughout the winter. But even a large town of two hundred thousand may have not a single literary group even meeting once a month nor yet an adult education class in literature contemporary or otherwise. The Literary and Debating societies of Victorian times seem to have folded up one by one. Could not the public libraries help to fill this void? Their clientèle borrow contemporary novels. Surely some of these borrowers would like to come together to discuss what they have read. Meetings could be planned in co-operation with the university or W.E.A. for no BBC book talks are at present given at times suitable for group listening. Monthly meetings would probably be sufficient.

SIMPLIFIED CATALOGUING RULES

MR. P. WARD, *Hon. Secretary, Private Libraries Association*, writes:

At the present time, when so much constructive research is being undertaken by a Library Association committee in the field of catalogue code revision, it may not be irrelevant to draw attention to a practical example of modern code revision.

Three years ago the Chairman of the Private Libraries Association appointed a committee to deal with the compilation of a code of simplified cataloguing rules on the lines indicated by the replies to a questionnaire circulated some time previously to members. In 1959 this new

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code was published by the Association, and although it was drawn up for the sole benefit of the amateur cataloguer, it was inevitable that the committee, consisting entirely of professional librarians who are also book-collectors, should both consider (and be influenced by) the various cataloguing codes compiled for the use of institutional libraries.

Despite the fact that a second large impression of the *Simplified cataloguing rules* is nearly exhausted, its success cannot be judged merely on commercial grounds, since upwards of two hundred private libraries now use the code virtually unmodified, and it has been adopted by the Faculty of Architects and Surveyors and by the (London) Corporation of Insurance Agents, to quote only two special libraries. Hitherto, the amateur book-collector had no means of cataloguing his library simply and consistently.

Cannot the process of simplification now be applied to lending library catalogues? There can be few British libraries which continue to apply, unmodified, even the (British) Library Association's recommendations as set out in the Joint Code of 1908, and surely the American Library Association's revision of 1949 has plunged the profession needlessly deeper into the cataloguing jungle. If the new *Simplified cataloguing rules* are in no sense intended to supersede the Joint Code in institutional libraries, it is nevertheless to be hoped that the Cataloguing Rules Subcommittee now meeting will accept the principle of simplification for municipal and county libraries.

A comparative study of the Joint Code and the *Simplified cataloguing rules* is published in the current *Library World*.

THE ANNUAL LECTURE, 1960

MR. D. E. GERARD, B.A., F.L.A., *Deputy City Librarian of Nottingham*, writes:

A pity that science dominated the Scarborough Conference, as the front page of October *Liaison* assured us it did. Yet to judge from the throw-away line at the foot of the same page, which summarily dismissed the Annual Lecture given this year by Professor William Walsh on "Critical practice and educational ideas", as "brilliant or baffling according to taste", clearly the weight of scientific papers at the Conference quite extinguished the humanities. Strange, too, that science, closed book as it is to most of us, should be apparently less baffling (less brilliant, too?), than a talk which dealt pregnantly with a situation closer to a librarian, I should have thought, than

hand or foot; to wit, *education*. For if librarians are not by instinct—and none of my colleagues is—apt pupils of scientific method, one might have hoped that at least they had ears to hear a message of educational content. What is so depressing is that the kind of thinking which should be second nature to any practising librarian with a sense of vocation, and not a mere mechanism, is treated as "baffling", evidently a kind of journalistic shorthand for "irrelevant and unimportant as a Conference issue". Thus dispirited, I feel inclined to add a footnote—if this doesn't seem too impertinent or baffling—in extenuation of Professor Walsh's bizarre choice of theme. If only that theme could inform the mind and outlook of each member of the L.A.!

Admittedly, the idea of conveying the message by discussing the work of a single critic, Dr. Leavis, might make the theme seem a narrow one for a Conference, but the whole point is that Leavis's name is linked for all time with a shift of consciousness and a radical change of attitude on the part of educationalists everywhere, which has had a reciprocal action particularly among the young and the young middle-aged in every sector of society where education is endemic, and surely that includes us? I don't wish to restate what Walsh said so pointedly; it is all there, fortunately preserved, perhaps the only paper worth preserving, in the printed Conference *Proceedings*, 1960, but if reception of the paper was as casual as it seems to have been, then it would seem necessary to indicate the reasons why it should be an important subject to an audience of librarians, and not just a supernumerary, a luxury for whoever might be odd enough to have a taste for that sort of thing.

Very briefly it behoves us, doesn't it, to realize why we exist as librarians, and so as educational agents, and I take it that there is no longer an argument about our function as such? Our peculiar interest in the culture, and that is simply the environment, of our day and age, ultimately depends on the quality of the best that is being thought and written, and that, in turn, depends on the use of language: the use of our own mother tongue, particularly the imaginative and creative use—the printed word, in short, and that brings the whole discussion back to us, the librarians and keepers of the words. Now all that Professor Walsh was doing was to outline the implications of this. For people intimately part of environment, or culture, or society (for they are all synonymous), the implications matter. By taking as his exemplum the work of Dr. Leavis,

he showed how critical acumen has been sharpened and profoundly altered in the past thirty years. The changed consciousness which the best writers of the 20th-century have engendered demanded a changed *critical* attention, and criticism is only judgement. Leavis brought this about with great labour, since any revolution in thought is laborious. But the result was to make the formation of judgement (i.e., criticism) that "astringent and social function in a lax, atomized age", as Professor Walsh put it, and we fervently hope he means atomized only in the realm of thought and not matter!

The point for librarians in all this is that criticism which teaches social values is a very different thing from that which is the province of elegant Bloomsburyites. Abstract self-indulgence by aesthetes utterly far removed from life is thus replaced by a discipline that has personal connotations, significance for the individual mind, and profound social and moral purpose. This is the world not of literati but of living men, and every professional librarian ought to know that this mental revolution has now been won, and that it affects him keenly. We have been taught adequacy of response to an age that demands a mature response, and since we all earn our living in the end by the printed book, such response is not the desirable attainment of only those who take Finals, Part 3(a), but of us all.

This kind of response calls for a pretty mature moral faculty, and for powers of thinking and feeling above average. Difficult to acquire? Yes, but so is everything worth having. A social functionary like a librarian surely needs to be emotionally more alive, intellectually more capable, and morally more honest than those for whom he functions.

Conviction can move mountains and is always potent. On this issue of the educational value of criticism conviction certainly modified the sensibility of an age, as Walsh claims Dr. Leavis has done. Vitality, the quality of life, which means for us in the book business inoculation against environment, is bringing about a new realism in dealing with the young and in revaluation of existing academic staleness. Libraries are going to see the results of this rethinking, and it is this which points to the relevance of Walsh's paper.

These are fundamental issues, not marginal ones. Quality of life, not measurement of life, is the important thing, for our purposes. It is more essential to us than the details of when, where, how and by whom a National Lending Library for Science and Technology will be founded, since

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that establishment, though of great utility, does not touch the deepest springs of impulse nor remedy the needs of a nation deficient in social passion. That is why it would have been better had something other than science dominated the Conference.

I commend the Annual Lecture in the *Proceedings* to everyone's careful and sustained attention.

L.A. Library Additions

JUNE TO SEPTEMBER, 1960

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[Due to the difficulty of obtaining type for accents, these have been omitted in all titles.]

Reviews

MILLS (J.). *A modern outline of library classification*. 1960. 196 pp. (Chapman and Hall, 36s.)

This textbook is based on the lectures Mr. Mills has been giving to Registration students at the North-Western Polytechnic. He begins by demonstrating the theory of classification, using to a great extent the more commonly accepted terminology of Ranganathan. He shows the necessity for facet analysis and justifies by arguments from common sense the PMEST formula for combining facets. Then follows a discussion of the problems of making a general classification scheme: notably, sequence of main classes, common facets and notation. Examples are drawn from the six major schemes studied today: Dewey, UDC, Library of Congress, Subject, Bibliographic and Colon Classification. Each of these schemes in turn is then briefly examined from the points of view of general principles and arrangement, use of facet analysis, notation and indexing. Specific subjects are used to illustrate practical application of the scheme and the necessary alphabetical index entries for the class marks obtained are worked out.

The scheme prepared for the *British catalogue of music* is taken as an exemplar of a special classification, "because it serves as a clear example of how special classifications are likely to be constructed in the future".

A general chapter on practical classification and indexing shows the student how to apply the principles he has learnt to the schemes he has studied. Other forms of indexing and mechanical selection of coded items are referred to.

The book does admirably what it sets out to do: to introduce the student to current ideas on classification and to help him place books and subjects in a modern library. It is not entirely a do-it-yourself book; some of the statements need further elucidation—a few could do with more support—in the classroom. The style retains the easy colloquialism of Mr. Mills's own lectures.

The *Outline* is by no means as sketchy as the pagination suggests: a full page of text contains nearly seven hundred words, in about fifty-seven lines of Varitype, covering a printed area of seven inches by five inches. It is physically difficult to read, to skip and to refer to. The typing has been done very carefully, but the pages do not invite. The student, however, who is put off by appearances will lose a valuable guide.

MARY PIGGOTT

VICKERY (B. C.) *Classification and indexing in science*. 2nd ed., enl. 1959. xx, 235 pp. (Butterworths Scientific Publications).

The first edition of this book, which appeared in 1958, was something of a landmark in classification literature, and it must indeed be pleasing for the author and publisher that a new edition has so soon been necessary. The principal changes are in the chapters on "Indexing" and "Mechanical Selection" and embody the rather inconclusive results of the International Conference on Scientific Information held in Washington in November, 1958. The second edition has fifty pages more than the first.

The avowed purpose of the book is to present the case for faceted classification, and this it does very well. The author has been associated with the Classification Research Group since its formation, and the Group has progressed some way beyond the rather limiting framework of Ranganathan's views with which it started, while always acknowledging (as Mr. Vickery again acknowledges in his preface) its debt to his fundamental ideas. Appendix B gives examples of faceted schedules made by Mr. Vickery and other members of the Group, and evidence is accumulating that faceted schemes are a real advance over traditional classifications such as UDC.

Not only is this evidence leading more people to interest in faceted classification, but Mr. Vickery shows clearly how "precise and flexible subject analysis" is fundamental to alphabetical indexing and to mechanical selection; in other words, to all sound methods of information retrieval.

The book is well written, and expounds reasonably clearly an intricate subject, the terminology of which (and this is not the author's fault) is not always as clear or well-chosen as it might be. Because of this, and because many people have allowed themselves to be terrified by the apparent complexities of the subject, your reviewer still holds the opinion, expressed on the first edition, that a glossary would be a valuable addition to the book. The omission is all the more curious since the author already has one notable glossary to his credit in this field.

The book is well printed and produced and has a good index.

D. J. CAMPBELL

The Armorial quarterly. Volume I (four parts November, 1959—August, 1960). Edited by Lt.-Col. Robert Gayre, of Gayre and Nigg, 1 Darnaway St., Edinburgh, 21s. p.a.

Whilst some periodicals depend for success on their ability to keep readers up-to-date with latest developments in their subject field, others have value in serving as vehicles for recording specialized research which often will never appear in book form. In the latter class is this new periodical with a field of interest wide enough to include any aspect of an entrancing subject. It defines itself as "an international quarterly journal of heraldry, genealogy, nobiliary law, heraldic art, historic houses, orders of chivalry, *ex libris* and related subjects".

Without discussing whether journal and quarterly are compatible terms, the first four issues contain articles that certainly are diverse in subject matter. The international conception is apparent from the impressive list of authorities with familiar names who serve as honorary advisers in countries in all parts of the world.

Each issue contains about 60 pp., demy 8vo, and is priced at 6s. The many illustrations in line block and fine screen half-tone are of high quality, and often colour is used to advantage. There is nothing more decorative than heraldry in colour, and illustrations of tartans must have it. By using glossy paper throughout there is complete freedom to illustrate with the text instead of relying upon inserted plates. Pedigrees are beautifully written by an experienced calligrapher. Printing is of good standard although italics in text appear unduly light occasionally.

The quality of the articles themselves is high. One would expect this with a new periodical when material for print is plentiful and to put the best on show at first is natural, but one has a sense that the editor is most confident that this standard can be maintained. Each article in English has a 100-word summary appended in French and German as well as biographical notes of contributors.

There is no indication that the periodical will be indexed. It will lose a lot in value as a reference source if it is not.

The Armorial's general character recalls another heraldic quarterly, *The Ancestor*, which was edited by Oswald Barron and which ran for only 12 issues between April, 1902 and January, 1905. This is still most useful as a reference work because it was indexed. Let us hope this new periodical will get sufficient subscriber support to continue for longer than its distinguished predecessor.

W. J. HILL

Obituaries

W. C. Berwick Sayers

[Two obituaries of Mr. Berwick Sayers appeared in our November issue. Further tributes received appear below.]

DR. S. R. RANGANATHAN, M.A., L.T., F.L.A., writes:

Bernard I. Palmer's letter of 12th October, 1960, broke the news of the happening on Friday, 7th October. It was absolutely unexpected and a great shock. I had been hoping to be in London to join his friends and students on the occasion of presenting to him the *Festschrift* under preparation. But, alas, it has now to be a memorial volume.

Sayers has shaped the outlook of the last two generations of librarians in the English-speaking world. I owe to him the delight brought to me by the profession. During the first nine months of my life as librarian, I could not find anything in the profession to grip me or to retain me in it. But, I met Sayers early in October, 1924. His very first talk to the class converted me. That talk revealed, in a flash, the possible reaches of librarianship into the intellectual plane. Indeed, that very day, I changed the term "librarianship" in my mind into the term "library science"; and that talk of his made me decide to stay on in the profession.

I found the course in University College riddled with many subjects not very relevant to library science. This made me think of withdrawing myself from the course. But Sayers advised me to stay on and take only the essential subjects. That was a brave and far-sighted suggestion. That was a measure of his sense of realism.

In November that year he took me to the Carnegie Rural Library Conference. There, he introduced me to several celebrities such as Lord Haldane, Miss Haldane, and Col. Mitchell. He introduced me also to several librarians. This was of great help to me throughout the year. Then, he allowed me to spend December in his own library system in Croydon, working as an apprentice in different departments. He then chalked out for me a scheme of visits to several libraries in Great Britain. This was a measure of his kindness to his students.

Sayers was the first person to write out an elaborate, consistent, and complete grammar of classificatory language. His two treatises have gone through several editions. The elegance of their exposition has made them popular among

students. They have been holding the field for nearly half a century. In spite of his having been first to enter the field, he accepted with enthusiasm newcomers such as Bliss and myself. He even went to the extent of devoting some sections and even whole chapters of his books to the works of newcomers. That was a measure of his catholicity as a scholar.

In May, 1957, I was in London on my way to the Dorking Conference on Classification and Information Retrieval. From the house of A. J. Wells, I telephoned to Sayers asking him to go to Dorking with us. "I have no invitation", he said, "but I shall go with you; because an international conference on a subject dear to our hearts is beyond formality of any kind." This was a measure of the capacity of his enthusiasm for the subject to wipe out barriers of all kinds and of his being a scientist at heart.

His speech at the Dorking Conference was remarkable as much for its brevity and eloquence as for its penetration and certitude. His words of introduction in my *Five laws of library science* have the same qualities in abundant measure. He had spent some hours with me in 1925 while struggling with the first steps in the design of Colon Classification. His interest extended to many branches of library science. His book on library service to children broke new ground. In his advocacy of the open access system, he had been a worthy participant of James Duff Brown. To the very last day of his life, he was keeping himself abreast of most of the new developments in library science. Four years ago, he told me, "Nowadays, our subject is being taken to great depths. Sometimes, it takes me an hour to study a page of some of the new writings. But, I persist in following them." This is a measure of how lightly old age sat on him and of how young he continued to be in mind.

Sayers lived a full life. It was a rich life. It will be a source of inspiration to the librarians of the present and the future.

In 1950, I wrote to the Vice-Chancellor of the University of London asking her to signalize the centenary celebrations of British library legislation by the conferment of an honorary doctorate on Berwick Sayers in recognition of his pioneering services to library science and to library education. Unfortunately, the centenary year was left to pass away without any such gesture of academic recognition of the library profession. It was a disappointment to his friends and students and to many of the progressive thinkers within the profession. However, a prominent place in the history of library science and library service is

assured to Berwick Sayers on the basis of his outstanding contributions to library science and his achievement as a practising librarian.

May his soul rest in peace and delight!

MR. ARCHIBALD SPARKE, M.A., F.R.S.L., F.L.A., writes:

The passing of Sayers came as a shock to me as, in his last letter, he seemed full of the joys of life, and told me of his month's holiday in Cornwall amidst the windswept stretches of sea-shore, the lovely sea, the trees, flowers and scents of the countryside and how much he was looking forward to the Conference at Scarborough and meeting so many old friends. He had the charm of attracting friends, and holding them. I first met him at a meeting in Bolton when he was appointed to Wallasey, in 1915, and we have corresponded ever since. He will long be remembered by the senior members of the Library Association, and gratefully by the students, not only for his textbooks on librarianship, but for his lectures at the Library School in the University of London. He was interested in music and wrote a life of Samuel Coleridge Taylor, a standard work of which a second edition appeared in 1927. He was gathering material for a life of Louis Stanley Jast, to which I was able to add (another of my personal friends), saying he would use it "with discretion" as, like me, he thought "most biographies and autobiographies should be classified as Fiction". Sayers led an extremely busy life, and he will be much missed by the Council of the Association, and by a large circle of personal friends.

MR. W. BENSON THORNE, F.L.A., writes:

The passing of Berwick Sayers has removed a notable figure from the field of British librarianship, but it is unlikely his name will ever disappear from its annals, for his achievements are embedded too deeply in its history for that to happen. His books, his lectures, his active share in practically all progressive movements for the advancement of library services have given him a position that can never be overlooked. His death has deprived me of the fellowship of one with whom I had been on close friendly terms for more than fifty years, and from whom I had received much encouragement at all times: I take pride in paying this small tribute to his memory.

DAVISON.—The East Midlands has suffered a grievous loss in the recent death of Mr. Ronald Davison, F.L.A., Chief Librarian of Long Eaton, on 7th October, 1960.

He commenced his career at Tynemouth, and after war service was appointed Chief Assistant at Long Eaton in 1945, being promoted to the chiefship two years later. The excellent library service, which he had done so much to build up, is itself the best possible tribute to his professional ability, but he was also known to many younger members of the Library Association as a correspondence course tutor for the First Professional Examination.

Locally he was held in the highest esteem for his quiet work for the community. A convinced Christian, he was a Past President of the Long Eaton Free Church Federal Council, and a Sunday School worker and Deacon in his own Baptist Church.

By his death at the tragically early age of 41, the Long Eaton Urban District Council have lost a most capable and conscientious officer; his readers have lost the services of a man completely dedicated to their welfare; and those of us who were privileged to share his delightful friendship have sustained a grievous blow.

He leaves behind a widow and two children, and to them we offer our sincere sympathy.

EDWARDS.—We regret to note the death of Mr. H. H. Edwards, F.L.A., formerly Chief Librarian of St. Helens, on 26th August.

Mr. Edwards was article to the then new library at St. Helens in 1898 and was appointed Chief Librarian in 1928, a post he held for 20 years until his retirement. His long, patient and painstaking work at St. Helens had been a major contribution to the high standard of public library service in that borough.

RECORD.—We regret to note the death of Mr. P. D. Record, M.A., F.L.A., in October. Mr. Record, who was Assistant Secretary to the Oxford University Appointments Committee, was previously at the Bodleian Library. His pamphlet *A survey of thesis literature in British libraries* was published by the Association in 1950.

VALE.—Only this autumn George F. Vale wrote in these columns of Gurner Jones, "[I] shall treasure the memory of his friendship for the rest of my life." It is desolating to think how quickly he was (on November 12th) to follow his lifelong intimate into the shades. As he wrote the words, was the Spirit of Irony at his elbow? It must surely have been. For weary months, those of us who were close to him divined how sorely he was afflicted, and were at pains to keep it from him; we have every reason now to think that George divined how sorely he was afflicted,

and was at pains to keep it from us. That would have been typical of his quality. Old Robert Burton perhaps had the right of it when he said, "The gods are well pleased when they see great men contending with adversity."

Sub-Librarian, Bethnal Green, 1919; Borough Librarian, 1934; Councillor of the A.A.L. 1919-1933; President, 1927-1928; Chairman, London and Home Counties Branch, 1950; superannuated, 1950; so, in résumé, ran his career. But one does not give one's love to a career, and it is the man who occupies my thoughts at this grievous juncture.

The secret of George's impact upon his generation was surely zest. Librarianship to him was not merely a living, but a way of living. He believed in librarianship. He loved librarianship. He championed librarianship wherever the good seed might strike. He gave to librarianship all he had. And, in spite of a deficiency in formal education, he was never wanting in Cockney shrewdness, which on occasion (for example, to his Conference colleagues' delighted embarrassment), became Cockney "cheek". He had the faculty to tell a hawk from a hand-saw, a "phoney" from the genuine article. He could grasp big ideas. Like S. F. Ukridge (if George's *revenant* will forgive the comparison) he commanded the Broad Flexible Outlook, and (irksomely at times), the same seigniorial impatience with practical details. His integrity, his transparent simplicity, his robust faith in himself, coupled with the substance and general immovability of his corporal presence, could abash even an audit clerk...

For me his departure is the more markedly felt, because so much of my early journey was bound up with him. We not only worked together, we played together; I will chance my arm and say we frolicked together. We were—my goodness—always Up to Something. And the Something was invariably something shared and private and thought about and talked about (for in and out of season we "tired the sun with talking"). Things—I can't to this day explain why—had a way of Happening to us. Only George and I could have seen a camel in—of all places—an East End thoroughfare; we cherished that camel as an object of personal mythology until its place was taken by a stuffed crocodile under the left arm of a man in a bowler hat and a hurry. We went to cricket and Ray Smith saluted our patronage with a whirlwind hundred. We regaled ourselves with some handsomeness at a caravanserai in Fleet Street, and George, as sternly vertical as the Eddystone lighthouse, was tailed for a quarter of a mile by a constable with a low mind—an indignity which the victim was later to relive with reminiscent gusto...

But—lest I over-simplify—his fun was underlaid by a deep but never obtruded religious faith—one recess of his nature which, with infinite delicacy, he guarded against my profane trespass.

A just and generous Chief; a counsellor "frank and fresh", as his beloved Dickens would say; a friend whose name was constancy; that was what George meant to me. As the curtains softly closed before his blossoming coffin, I felt that they also closed upon an irrecoverable chapter in my life.

STANLEY SNAITH

SUTTON.—We regret to announce that, after an illness from which she appeared to be recovering, Mrs. Phyllis M. Sutton (*née* Riches), F.L.A., died suddenly in hospital on 8th November at the age of 56.

Commencing as an Assistant in the Croydon Libraries, she became a member of the Library Association in 1928, obtaining her Fellowship in 1932. Migrating from Croydon to St. Marylebone, she continued there until her marriage in 1935. For her Fellowship thesis she compiled *An analytical bibliography of universal collected biography*, a considerable volume which was published by the Association in 1934 and proved an extremely valuable reference tool. Later in life, and resulting from membership of the Croydon Writers' Circle, she felt prompted to try her hand at writing fiction, and had the somewhat unusual satisfaction of getting her first effort accepted immediately: this was *Continental holiday*, published by W. H. Allen, in 1952. Subsequently she wrote ten more books of a similar nature, one of which was dedicated to the late Berwick Sayers, with whom she had worked at Croydon, and another to other friends in the library service. Several of them were translated into Dutch, and of one the film rights were sold. In recent years she and her husband lived in a picturesque cottage at Bodiam, Sussex, where, latterly, she acted as librarian at the local branch of the county library system. Her interest in librarianship and library affairs never flagged, and her membership of the Association was maintained to the end.

W. BENSON THORNE

Appointments and Retirements

ALLRED.—Mr. J. R. Allred, A.L.A., Branch Librarian, Nottingham P.L., to be employed at Hampshire Co.L.

ASHTON.—Mr. B. Ashton, Assistant, Padiham Branch Lancs. Co.L., to be Reference Librarian, Accrington P.L.

BECK.—Miss G. M. K. Beck, B.A., F.L.A., Assistant-in-charge of Records and Index. *Chemistry and Industry*, to be Librarian, *Architects' Journal*.

BEARHAM.—Miss J. Bearham, A.L.A., Senior Assistant, Gravesend P.L., to be Deputy Librarian, St. Thomas's Hospital L.

BISWAS.—Mr. Rajat Kumar Biswas, B.A., Student, Department of Librarianship, North Western Poly., to be employed at Barking P.L.

BLACKMORE.—Mrs. J. A. Blackmore, A.L.A., Librarian, Parliament Hill School, London, to be Librarian, L.C.C. Hammersmith College of Art and Building.

BRASBY.—Mr. D. E. Brasby, B.A., A.L.A., Librarian, Northern Command, York, to be Assistant Librarian, Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, Swindon.

BROWN.—Miss B. Brown, Children's Librarian, Hove P.L., to be Children's Librarian, York P.L.

BROXIS.—Mr. P. Broxis, Assistant, British Library of Political and Economic Science, to be employed at North-Western Polytechnic School of Librarianship.

BURGESS.—Mr. D. G. Burgess, Branch Librarian, Hillingdon, Middlesex Co.L., to be Librarian-in-charge, Askern Region Travelling L., W. Riding Co.L.

CHADWICK.—Mrs. J. L. Chadwick (née Stevens), Nuffield College L., to be employed at Oxford Co.L.

CHEW.—Mr. J. K. Chew, F.L.A., Assistant Reference Librarian, Harris P.L., Preston, to be Reference Librarian, Wolverhampton P.L.

CLARKE.—Mr. D. E. Clarke, A.L.A., Librarian and Information Officer, British Manufacture and Research

Co. Ltd., Grantham, to be Librarian and Information Officer, C.A.V. Ltd., Acton.

COX.—Mr. D. Cox, B.A., A.L.A., Deputy Librarian, Brotherton Library, Leeds University, to be Librarian, University College of Sussex, Brighton.

DAVIES.—Miss A. E. Davies, A.L.A., Senior Assistant, Brierley Hill P.L., to be Deputy Librarian, Brierley Hill P.L.

DAVIES.—Mr. W. Davies, A.L.A., Assistant Librarian, Wellingborough P.L., to be District Librarian, Cleveland, North Riding Co.L.

DINE.—Mr. D. G. Dine, A.L.A., Senior Assistant, Cent. Lend. L., Plymouth P.L., to be Librarian, Central Lend. L., Hampshire Co.L.

DOWNS.—Mrs. J. Downs (née Shead), Assistant, Birmingham Coll. of Tech., to be Senior Assistant Librarian, College of Advanced Technology, Birmingham.

GOOD.—Mr. D. Good, A.L.A., General Assistant, Harris P.L., Preston, to be Assistant Children's Librarian, Preston P.L.

GREEN.—Mr. S. Green, F.L.A., Deputy District Librarian, Woking District L., Surrey Co., to be Cataloguer, *British National Bibliography*.

HOGGARTH.—Miss R. Hoggarth, Mobile Librarian, Nottinghamshire Co.L., to be Assistant Librarian, Akers Research Laboratories, I.C.I.

HOLLIDAY.—Mr. S. C. Holliday, F.L.A., Deputy Librarian, Kensington P.L., to be Chief Librarian.

HULBERT.—Miss A. Hulbert, Assistant, Hampstead P.L., to be employed at East Barnet Library, Herts. Co.L.

JENNINGS.—Mr. B. Jennings, A.L.A., Deputy Borough Librarian, Mansfield P.L., to join the Periodicals Department, B. H. Blackwell Ltd., Broad Street, Oxford.

KAY.—Mr. J. L. Kay, Assistant Information Officer, Research Department, Staveley Iron and Chemical Co. Ltd., Hollingwood, to be employed at County Technical Library, Corby, Northants.

MARTIN.—Mrs. D. A. Martin (née Seaborn), Branch Librarian, West Harrow Branch, Middlesex Co.L., has resigned.

MASSEY.—Mr. H. G. Massey, A.L.A., Chief Librarian, Kensington P.L., to retire.

MCDONALD.—Miss C. T. McDonald, A.L.A., Librarian-in-charge, Circulation Section, Wiltshire Co.L., to be Senior Assistant, Exchange Department, North Riding Co.L.

MOYSE.—Miss P. M. Moyse, A.L.A., Branch Librarian, Skircoat Branch, Halifax P.L., to be Branch Librarian, Pickering, North Riding Co.L.

PARKER.—Mr. F. N. Parker, A.L.A., Assistant Cataloguer, Harris P.L., Preston, to be Assistant Reference Librarian, Preston P.L.

PEMBERTON.—Mr. H. Pemberton, B.A., Sch. of Lib., Manchester Coll. of Tech., to be Assistant Reference Librarian, Horace Barks Ref. L., Stoke-on-Trent.

PREENE.—Miss P. A. Preene, Assistant, Brierley Hill P.L., to be Senior Assistant, Brierley Hill P.L.

PRETTEJOHNS.—Mr. L. G. Prettejohns, A.L.A., Librarian-in-charge, Old Kent Road District Library, to be Librarian-in-charge, Brandon Library, Maddock Way, Southwark P.L.

PROCTER.—Mr. P. W. Procter, A.L.A., Senior Assistant, Finchley P.L., has resigned.

REED.—Miss P. M. Reed, A.L.A., Assistant-in-charge, Southwick Branch, W. Sussex Co.L., to be Senior Assistant, St. Albans P.L.

REID-SMITH.—Mr. E. R. Reid-Smith, A.L.A., Branch Librarian, Canley Branch, Coventry P.L., to be Central Lending Librarian, Oldham P.L.

SHEPHERD.—Mrs. Jean Shepherd (*nee* Bevan), M.A., Assistant Librarian, Central Lending L., Manchester, to be Reference Librarian, Sutton and Cheam P.L.

SIMPSON.—Mr. D. J. Simpson, B.Sc.(Econ.), F.L.A., Librarian-in-charge, Central Lending Library, Sutton and Cheam P.L., to be Librarian, Headquarters, International Business Machines.

SOMERVILLE.—Miss S. A. Somerville, Assistant Children's Librarian, Harris P.L., Preston, to be Children's Librarian, Preston P.L.

SPINKS.—Mr. W. H. Spinks, A.L.A., Librarian-in-charge, Lansbury Branch, Poplar P.L., has retired.

STAKES.—Miss P. C. Stakes, Assistant, Bedford College Library, to be Assistant Librarian, Nuneaton P.L.

STUBBINGS.—Mrs. E. M. Stubbings (formerly Mrs. Clarke), Librarian, Nature Conservancy, to resign.

SUTHERLAND.—Mr. F. M. Sutherland, M.A., F.L.A., Sub-Librarian, Wellcome Historical Medical L., to be Librarian, British Medical Association.

TUCK.—Miss N. Tuck, A.L.A., Regional Librarian, Marlborough, Wiltshire Co.L., to be Branch Librarian, Easingwold and Thirsk, North Riding Co.L.

VILES.—Mr. J. F. Viles, A.L.A., Senior Assistant, Ealing Central L., to be Branch Librarian, Ealing P.L.

WAITE.—Miss M. C. Waite, A.L.A., Children's Librarian, Harris P.L., Preston, to be Children's Librarian, Battersea P.L.

WATKINS.—Mr. E. M. Watkins, A.L.A., Assistant, Brentford and Chiswick P.L., to be Senior Assistant, Weston-super-Mare P.L.

WATLINGTON.—Miss N. A. Watlington, Assistant, Islington P.L., to be Senior Assistant, St. Albans P.L.

WHITEHOUSE.—Mr. B. J. Whitehouse, Assistant Librarian, Birmingham College of Art and Crafts, to be Assistant Librarian, Hereford Co.L.

WILLIAMS.—Miss Susan Z. Williams, Assistant, Somerset Co.L., to be Assistant, East Sussex Co.L.

Correction

October issue, p. 343.

Please amend entry to read:

MCALLUM.—Miss M. W. W. McCallum, A.L.A., Senior Assistant, Lewisham P.L., to be Librarian, Maria Grey College, Twickenham.

Appointments Vacant

Chartered Librarians are advised to refrain from applying for any post in public libraries demanding Registration Qualifications (A.L.A. or F.L.A.) which is advertised in the General or Clerical Divisions of the National Scales or in accordance with the Miscellaneous Salary Scales.

ASLIB

LIBRARIAN required to take charge of the Aslib research library of special librarianship and information work. Applicants, men or women, should have a degree and special library experience. Knowledge of languages and a librarianship qualification would be additional recommendations. This is a challenging post with varied interest and opportunities. Salary on scale £900 × £50—£1,250, plus superannuation. Apply, naming two referees, to the Director, Aslib, 3 Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1.

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The Ghana Library Board is proposing to open a School of Librarianship in Accra in September, 1961, and invites applications from Fellows of the Library Association for the following posts:

(a) **PRINCIPAL.** To be responsible for the organization of courses preparing students for the First Professional and Registration Examinations of the Library Association and to arrange for in-service training.

Applicants should have considerable practical experience in modern library systems and full-time lecturing experience in a library school.

Salary: Contract £G2,180 × 60—£G2,300.

(b) **LECTURER.** To assist in the training programme.

Applicants should have held the position of full-time or part-time lecturer at a library school and have wide practical experience.

Salary: According to experience on contract scale, £G1,590 × 60—£G2,010.

Terms of appointment. The appointments will be initially on contract for 2 years, each of from 15 to 18 months' duration. Gratuity of £G150 p.a. Part-furnished accommodation at moderate rentals. Family and outfit allowances. Passages for appointee and family on appointment and leave. Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, Ghana Library Board, P.O. Box 663, Accra.

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ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN required by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority at Dounreay to assist in providing literature surveys and technical data from books, periodicals and research reports in response to requests by scientific and technical staff. The main fields of interest will be in chemistry, physics, engineering and metallurgy.

The basic qualification required is G.C.E., or equivalent, in at least five subjects including two at advanced level in science and mathematics. Experience in a reference or technical library, knowledge of the U.D.C., abstracting journals and library qualifications, or possession of a university degree, are desirable.

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Applications are invited for (a) SUB-LIBRARIAN to be responsible for organization and administrative work of Graduate Library Training Course under direction of Librarian, and to participate in teaching. Appointee must possess professional and academic qualifications appropriate to senior university post, and should have experience in field of public librarianship; and (b) ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN from graduates prepared to undertake professional training. Appointment to commence as soon as possible. Salary scales: (a) £1,200 × 75—£1,650 (bar); £1,725 × 75—£2,175 p.a. (b) £950 × 50—£1,100 p.a. (or if over 28 or holding higher degree £1,050 × 50—£1,150 p.a.). Passages paid for appointee, wife and up to 5 children under 11 years, on appointment, annual overseas leave and termination. Children's, car and outfit allowances. F.S.S.U. Part-furnished accommodation at rent not exceeding 7·7 per cent of salary. Detailed applications (6 copies) naming 3 referees by 5th January, 1961, to Secretary, Inter-University Council for Higher Education Overseas, 29 Woburn Square, London, W.C.1, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

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Wanted

Boxboard containers, January 1959 issue.—Librarian, W. D. & H. O. Wills, Bristol, 3.

Cambridge University Library, *Cataloguing rules*, 1927 ed. Replies to: Assistant Librarian, Squire Law Library, The Old Schools, Cambridge.

Out-of-print textbooks in librarianship for students in Central Africa. Offer or send to: National Free Library Service, Box 1773, Bulawayo, S. Rhodesia.

The Secretary of the L.A. urgently requires the following: Any issues of *Library Science Abstracts* for Vol. 9 (1958) and Vol. 11 (1960).

Following nos. of *L.A.R.*: vol. 5 (2), vol. 7 (2, 11), vol. 8 (1), vol. 15 (11), and title page and indexes to vols. 3, 4, 5, 8, 14, 16, 21, 22, 24, and N.S. vols. 2, 3, 5 and 6.

British National Bibliography. Annual vols. for 1955, 1956. Offers to Librarian, College of S. Mark and S. John, King's Road, London, S.W.10.

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